

301 Prompts for Argumentative Writing

By Michael Gonchar 9-2-15

The New York Times - The Learning Network

TECHNOLOGY

Technology

1. Does Technology Make Us More Alone?
7. Do You Worry We Are Filming Too Much?

Internet and Social Media

14. Should What You Say on Facebook Be Grounds for Getting Fired?
15. Should People Be Allowed to Obscure Their Identities Online?

Technology in Schools

19. Should Tablet Computers Become the Primary Way Students Learn in Class?
22. Is Online Learning as Good as Face-to-Face Learning?

ART, FILM, BOOKS, VIDEO GAMES AND OTHER MEDIA

Movies, TV and Theater

24. Is TV Stronger Than Ever, or Becoming Obsolete?
26. Does Reality TV Promote Dangerous Stereotypes?

Music

41. Will Musical Training Make You More Successful?

Video Games

42. Should Video Games Be Considered a Sport?
43. Should Stores Sell Violent Video Games to Minors?

Literature

49. Would You Trade Your Paper Books for Digital Versions?
50. Does Reading a Book Count More Than Listening to One?

Art

54. Can Graffiti Ever Be Considered Art?
55. Do We Need Art in Our Lives?

GENDER AND RELATIONSHIPS

Gender Issues

59. Do Parents Have Different Hopes and Standards for Their Sons Than for Their Daughters?
60. Is School Designed More for Girls Than Boys?

Dating and Sex

80. Is Dating a Thing of the Past?
82. Should Couples Live Together Before Marriage?

SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

Football

87. Should Parents Let Their Children Play Football?
88. Should College Football Players Get Paid?

Sportsmanship

90. Are Some Youth Sports Too Intense?
96. Should Sports Betting Be Legal Everywhere?

Other Sports

100. Is Cheerleading a Sport?
102. Would You Want a Bike Share Program for Your Community?

POLITICS AND POLICY

Government

107. Should Rich People Have to Pay More Taxes?
108. What Is More Important: Our Privacy or National Security?

Leadership and Politics

109. Do Leaders Have Moral Obligations?
110. Do Great Leaders Have to Be Outgoing?

International Relations

112. Should the U.S. Be Spying on Its Friends?
114. Should Countries Pay Ransoms to Free Hostages Held by Terrorists?

Police, Prisons and Justice System

116. When Should Juvenile Offenders Receive Life Sentences?
121. Should Felons Be Allowed to Vote After They Have Served Their Time?

Gun Policy

126. Should Guns Be Permitted on College Campuses?
127. Did a Newspaper Act Irresponsibly by Publishing the Addresses of Gun Owners?

Immigration

128. Should Millions of Undocumented Immigrants Be Allowed to Live in the U.S. Without Fear of Getting Deported?
129. Are Children of Illegal Immigrants Entitled to a Public Education?

PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Parenting and Childhood

133. Do 'Shame and Blame' Work to Change Teenage Behavior?
134. Do We Give Children Too Many Trophies?

Parents and School

147. Would You Want to Be Home-Schooled?
148. Should All Children Be Able to Go to Preschool?

House and Home

149. How Important Is Keeping a Clean House?
150. Does Keeping a Messy Desk Make People More Creative?

Millennial Generation

152. Does Your Generation Have Too Much Self-Esteem?
153. Is Your Generation Really 'Postracial'?

Becoming an Adult

156. When You Are Old Enough to Vote, Will You?

CHARACTER AND MORALITY

Personal Character

157. Can Money Buy You Happiness?

160. Do People Complain Too Much?

Religion and Spirituality

165. Do You Believe That Everything Happens for a Reason?

167. Can You Be Good Without God?

Morality and Personal Responsibility

169. Does Suffering Make Us Stronger and Lead to Success?

170. Do Bystanders Have a Responsibility to Intervene When There is Trouble?

Language and Standards

176. Do Laws That Ban Offensive Words Make the World a Better Place?

178. Is It Wrong for a Newspaper to Publish a Front-Page Photo of a Man About to Die?

EDUCATION

Teaching and Learning

180. Does Your Homework Help You Learn?

182. Does Class Size Matter?

184. Does Gym Help Students Perform Better in All Their Classes?

188. What Do You Think of Grouping Students by Ability in Schools?

Discipline and School Rules

194. Should Schools Be Allowed to Use Corporal Punishment?

198. Should Students Be Barred From Taking Cell phones to School?

Time in School

207. Do You Think a Longer School Calendar Is a Good Idea?

210. Should Students Be Allowed to Skip Senior Year of High School?

Grading

214. Should Students Be Able to Grade Their Teachers?

217. Does Separating Boys and Girls Help Students Perform Better in School?

Standardized Tests

221. How Seriously Should We Take Standardized Tests?

222. Do You Spend Too Much Time Preparing for Standardized Tests?

School Life

225. How Much Does It Matter to You Which High School You Attend?

227. Should Home-Schoolers Be Allowed to Play Public School Sports?

COLLEGE AND CAREER

College

233. Is College Overrated?

239. Does It Matter Where You Go to College?

240. Do College Rankings Matter?

Jobs and Careers

246. Should Employers Be Able to Review Job Applicants' SAT Scores?

247. Do You Worry Colleges or Employers Might Read Your Social Media Posts Someday?

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Drugs, Cigarettes and Alcohol

250. Is Smoking Still a Problem Among Teenagers?

254. Should Students Be Required to Take Drug Tests?

Nutrition and Food

260. Is Breakfast Really the Most Important Meal of the Day?

263. Should the Government Limit the Size of Sugary Drinks?

Health Issues

266. Should Texting While Driving Be Illegal in Every State?

267. Should Terminally Ill Patients Be Allowed to Die on Their Own Terms?

Appearance and Fashion

268. Should Children Be Allowed to Wear Whatever They Want?

270. Do 'Saggy Pants' Mean Disrespect?

SCIENCE TOPICS

Science and the Environment

274. Should Developers Be Allowed to Build in and Near the Grand Canyon?

275. Should Scientists Try to Help People Beat Old Age So We Can Live Longer Lives?

Outer Space

279. Do You Think Life Exists — or Has Ever Existed — Somewhere Besides Earth?

280. Do You Believe in Intelligent Alien Life?

Animals

283. Should Certain Animals Have Some of the Same Legal Rights As People?

286. Should You Feel Guilty About Killing Spiders, Ants or Other Bugs?

MISCELLANEOUS

Rich and Famous

288. Should the Private Lives of Famous People Be Off Limits?

289. Do You Think Child Stars Have It Rough?

American Dream

291. Is It Possible to Start Out Poor in This Country, Work Hard and Become Well-Off?

292. Do Poor People 'Have It Easy'?