

Date/Unit	Topic	Writing Prompts
October	Interpretive Essay**	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from Literature When you have closely examined a piece of literature, you are able to interpret it—to figure out meanings that are not obvious at first glance. Write an essay that interprets a literary work and helps readers find new meaning or significance in it.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from the Real World Choose a memorable story from a movie or book that you recently viewed or read. Write an essay that briefly summarizes the story and examine its deeper meaning or overall message.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World Write an interpretation of a television ad, describing the ad’s images and sound and explaining how the elements affect its message.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing About Fine Art Artists use elements such as color, line, and shape to communicate their thoughts and feelings. Choose an abstract work of art from this book or an online source and write an interpretation.</p>

<p>October</p>	<p>Autobiographical Narrative**</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from Your Life Write an autobiographical narrative about an important experience you had, include details that help your reader understand the people and events in your narrative. Be sure to explain why the experience matters to you.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from Literature Choose a short story that you have read this year. Find an interesting event in that story and write an autobiographical narrative of the event from the point of view of one of the characters involved. Your narrative should show why the event and was signifcant to the charcater.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World Write a letter to the company that markets a product or service that has “saved your day.” In your letter, describe the event and how you were helped.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing About Fine Art Write an autobiographical narrative about a work of art that has an impact on you or that evokes memories of an event in your life. Consider the art in this book or other books, museum works, and outdoor art and sculptures, graphic novels, or your own works of art as a source of inspiration.</p>
<p>Unit 3</p>	<p>Short Story</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from Your Imagination To hold a reader’s attention, a short story needs a central conflict. Write a story that is centered on a particular conflict that interests you.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from Literature A provocative question can make you see the work in a new way. Select an intriguing question from this unit or an earlier unit. Write a short story inspired by that question.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World Use photographs from newspapers, magazines, or ads to help you craft a short story. For example, photographs of a festival or vacation spot might give you ideas fro the story’s setting.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing from Fine Art Use a work of art to help you craft a short story. For example, a painting might give you an idea for the setting. Look for ideas on museum Web sites or in an art book.</p>

<p>November</p>	<p>Comparison-Contrast Essay**</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from Literature Write an essay comparing and/or contrasting two literary works. Concentrate on key aspects of the literature, such as theme setting, and characters, and explain how those key aspects affect the works’ overall meanings. Your reader should gain a new understanding of the works.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from the Real World Write an essay comparing two creative works that are especially interesting to you. Choose key aspects of the works as a basis of your comparison. You might consider setting, characters, time period, or themes as the focus of your comparisons.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World Write an essay for a travel magazine that compares two similar travel destination. Begin your research online.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing About Fine Art Write the text for an audio tour for visitors to a museum gallery. In the tour compare two works of art. Research your subject at a museum’s Web site, in a book, or in art options your teacher provides.</p>
<p>January</p>	<p>Cause-and-Effect Essay**</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from the Real World Write an essay in which you explain in a cause-and-effect relationship that you consider important or interesting. You can explore how multiple causes lead to a single effect or how a single cause leads to multiple effects.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from Literature Write an essay that traces a cause-and-effect relationship in a work of fiction or nonfiction.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World Select a common product such as a car, a washing machine, or athletic shoes. Write a proposal for manufacturing funds that “sells” the effects that consumers can expect if they purchase the product.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing Inspired by Photography In an online museum or a book, find a photograph that depicts a group of people involved in an intriguing situation. Imagine you are one of the people, and jot down the chain of events that might have led to the photograph.</p>

<p>February</p>	<p>Editorial (Persuasive Essay)**</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from the Real World An eloquent and well-supported argument can get readers thinking and talking. Choose an issue you feel strongly about. Write an editorial for your school newspaper in support of your position.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from Literature Choose an issue that you care about from one of the selections in this unit. Write an editorial for your local newspaper, using the piece you read as a starting point.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World You have just finished a summer job that was perfect except for one problem. Write an editorial for the company newsletter in which you describe the problem and propose a solution.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing About Fine Art A wealthy donor has given money to beautify your school, and students have been asked to recommend their favorite painting or other fine art. Recommendations will be printed in editorial form along with photos of the actual art. Using a piece of art from a textbook, a library book, or an online or local art gallery as a reference, write an editorial arguing in favor of placing this piece.</p>
<p>April</p>	<p>Literary Analysis**</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from Literature Choose one or more poems and write an essay examining their meaning. In your essay, you should focus on one or more specific literary elements in the poem(s) and explain how these elements contribute to the meaning.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from the Real World Write an essay for a music Web site, in which you analyze the lyrics of a particular song. Give specific examples to help readers understand why these lyrics are important to you.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World Your company’s romantic greeting cards have not sold well. Fine two romantic poems that could appear on new cards. Write a memo analyzing why the new poems would help boost sales.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing in the Humanities For an anthology called <i>America’s Favorite Poems</i>, submit the poem that you like best. Accompany your favorite poem with an analysis of what makes it worthy of inclusion.</p>

<p>Unit 8</p>	<p>Critical Review</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from Literature Write a critical review of a literary work. Consider how the author’s use of style elements (such as word choice, figurative language, imagery, mood, or theme) affected your appreciation of the work. Your review should state your opinion of the work, explain the criteria you used to judge it, and tell whether you would recommend it to others.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from the Real World Write a critical review of a story you have viewed or read. Your review should state your opinion of the work explain the criteria you used to judge it, and tell whether you would recommend it to others.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World Write a critical review of a new or reemerging fashion, a recently opened store or restaurant, or the latest trend for teenagers. Your review should state your opinion explain the criteria you used to judge it, and tell whether you would recommend it to others.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing About Fine Art Using a piece of art from a textbook, a library book, or an online art gallery, write a critical review of a painting or sculpture that you either love or hate. Your review should state your opinion of the work, explain the criteria you used to evaluate it, and tell why the artist did or did not fulfill you expectations.</p>
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<p>Unit 9</p>	<p>Informative Essay and Interview</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from Literature Choose an event that you read about. Find someone who remembers this event. Interview him or her and wrote an informative essay based on your interview and your reading. Your essay should briefly summarize the event, give the name of the person you interviewed, and explain that person’s reaction to the event.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from the Real World Chose a historical period or event that interests you. Interview someone who lived through that period or experiences that event. Then write an informative essay that identifies that person you chose to interview and explains what you learned about the subject from him or her.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing About Careers For Career Day at your school, prepare an informative speech about profession that interests you. As a part of you research, interview someone who does the job. Include what you learn from this person in your explanation of the career.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing for Media For a newspaper column called “Unsung Heroes,” choose someone in your community who helped a person, group or cause without gaining recognition. Interview the people involved. Write an informative essay about the situation behind the act of kindness.</p>
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<p>Unit 10</p>	<p>Persuasive Essay</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from the Real World The literature in this unit deals with the universal ideals of honor, loyalty, and service to others. Think about how these ideals are connected to today’s issues. Choose an issue you feel strongly about, and write an essay to persuade your readers to agree with you.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from Literature Choose one of the great ideals you encountered in this unit. Write a persuasive essay to encourage others to support the ideal. Refer to the literature in your essay, but be sure you make a connection to an issue in today’s world.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World Find a problem at school or in your community that you feel strongly about, such as the side effects of backpacks or the dangers of cell phone use while driving. Write a letter to the editor of the school or local newspaper that will persuade others to share your view.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing for the Media Write a one-minute television editorial about a controversial issue, such as limiting congressional terms or creating a school dress code. Argue for or against the issue, support your argument with several types of evidence, and try to anticipate the objections of local viewers.</p>
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<p>Unit 11</p>	<p>Comparing a Play and a Film</p>	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from Literature Write an essay in which you compare one scene from a filmed adaptation of Julius Caesar with the came scene in Shakespeare’s play.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from the Real World Choose a short story, novel, or play that you have read and enjoyed and that has been made into a film. Write a review for a movie Web site that compares the literary work with the film it inspired.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from the Real World Select a movie and its modern remake, such as <i>The Fly</i> (1958/1986), <i>Planet of the Apes</i> (1968/2001), or another remake of your choice. Write a comparative review of the two films for a newspaper or magazine. In your review, include a recommendation about whether the remake was worthwhile.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing from the Real World For a DVD bonus feature, write a comparison of an original work (story, play, or novel) that was adapted for film. Write as the author of the original or as the film’s writer/director, include your reasons for making or allowing the adaptation, and evaluate the result.</p>
<p>May</p>	<p>Research Paper**</p>	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from Literature Formulate a question about The Tragedy of Julius Caesar or another work of literature that you would like to explore in detail. Write a research paper that includes information from at least five sources and conclude with a list of works cited.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from the Real World Write a research paper that explores a question that interests you. Your paper should present your own ideas and interpretations as well as factual information. Include information from at least five sources as well as a list of works cited.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing About a Career Write a research paper that explores the training ands opportunities in a music career or another field of interest to you.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing Inspired by Photographs On a primary-source Web site or in a book, find several historical photographs that chronicle a turbulent era in American history. Use the photographs to illustrate research on how ordinary people survived during that era.</p>

