



Writing Workshops-Grade 8

Some topics are supported with WriteSmart models to assist students during the writing process.

**=Collected in red writing folders assessed with four point 6 Trait rubrics*

Quarter I: *Comparison Contrast (p.424)

Quarter II: *Choose one or combine: Personal Response to Media or Literature (p. 648) and Literary Analysis (p.742)

Quarter III/ Quarter IV: *Career Research Report and Aligned Activities

- Persuasive Business Letter: A student writes a letter to a future employer identifying how they match the requirements for a career they envision. A resume is included describing educational experience, honors won, and references.
- A Career Research report investigating a potential future career.
- A writing piece celebrating a significant contribution accomplished in the future.

Unit	Topic	Writing Prompts
1	Personal Narrative	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from Your Life Write a personal narrative telling about a special experience in your life. Include details that will help your reader understand what the experience was like. Be sure to explain why it was important to you.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from Literature Sometimes an incident or a conflict in a literary work can remind you of a similar experience in your own life. Choose an incident or conflict from of the stories in this unit. Describe the event and tell what similar thing happened to you.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from the Real World Write a personal narrative for a journal, diary, or blog. Focus on a special moment in your life and explain why it was significant.</p>

		<p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing from Media Select an interesting plot from a movie or TV program. Write about a similar situation from your own life.</p>
2	Describing a person	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from Your Life Write a focused description of a person who is important to you. Your description should include anecdotes and details to help your readers visualize the person.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from Literature The literature in this unit is full of memorable characters. Choose one of the characters you read about and describe that person as clearly as you can.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from the Real World Pick a person you know who is a natural leader with strong values. Then act as that person's campaign manager as he or she runs for public office. Write a description that might appear on his or her Web site.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing from a Picture Use your imagination to write a description of a person in a painting or photograph.</p>
3	Comparison-Contrast Essay	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from Literature Write an essay that compares or contrasts two selections that you have read this year. Concentrate in key aspects such as setting, people or characters, events, or the writer's style. Your essay should give your reader a new understanding of the selections.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from Your Life Write a comparison-contrast essay about two places, people, or events that are familiar, important, or interesting you. Explain why you chose those two subjects.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from the Real World Write a review that compares and contrasts the features, strengths, and weaknesses of two news sources.</p>

		<p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing About Fine Art Focus on two paintings, photographs, or illustrations that appear in your textbook in an art book from the library, or at an online museum. Compare and contrast the two pieces.</p>
4	Short Story	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from Your Imagination Write a short story that has an interesting plot. Make sure that your story includes a conflict and at least two characters.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from Literature Choose a “big question” from this unit that really made you think. Then write a short story inspired by that question. Create a plot, conflict, setting and at least two characters to hold your reader’s attention.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from a Picture Look in books and magazines for a painting or other work of art that you find intriguing. The free write about details in the work—people, setting, events— that might be part of a good story. Finally, review what you have written and choose the character(s), setting, and central conflict of your short story.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing from the Real World Write a short story based on a news story. Use details about interesting people, ideas, and events as springboard for your characters, plot, and setting.</p>
5	Personal Response to a Poem	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from Literature Choose a poem that you liked or disliked, or found puzzling. Write a personal response that explains why the poem made you react so strongly. Briefly describe the poem so readers will understand your response.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from the Real World Write an essay about a song lyric that has special meaning for you. Include explanations and quotations from the lyric so readers will understand why the song matters to you.</p>

		<p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from the Real World Write a review of a song or jingle used in an advertisement. It can be one that you think works well in the ad or one that falls short of what it is trying to accomplish.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing from Historical or Current Events Write a personal response to a poem inspired by historical or current events and issues.</p>
6	Literary Analysis	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from Literature Choose a selection from this unit and write an essay that helps a reader understand it more deeply. Focus on one or two literary elements such as plot, characters, setting, or mood.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from the Real World Think of a memorable story you have viewed or read. Write an essay in which you describe the story and analyze the reasons that is meaningful to you.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from Children’s Literature Choose a children’s story and write an essay that analyzes its most distinctive elements.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing from Oral Tradition People throughout history have told stories to teach lessons and explain the world around them. Choose a traditional tale and write an essay in which you describe its elements and analyze why it is meaningful.</p>
7	Cause-and-Effect Essay	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from the Real World Write an essay about a cause-and-effect relationship that you think is important or interesting. Make sure you can show clearly how one event caused another event to happen.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from Literature Literature can be full of cause-and-effect relationships. Write an essay that traces a cause-and-effect relationship in a literary work.</p>

		<p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from Your Life Choose an important accomplishment or failure in your life and write about the events that caused it.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing from Science Explore the causes of a condition affecting the physical world.</p>
8	Problem-Solution Essay	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from the Real World Choose a problem that really interests you. Write an essay in which you explain the problem, examine its causes, and explore possible solutions.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from Literature Every selection in this unit deals with solving problems. Choose one of the problems you read about in the unit. Write an essay identifying the problem and describing the solution.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from Media Think about the kinds of problems faced by movie or TV characters. Choose one that affects many people or that interests you.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing About Health Find out more about the causes, effects, and possible solutions related to health issues that today's teens confront.</p>
9	Persuasive Essay	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from the Real World Choose an issue you feel strongly about. Write a persuasive essay in which you explain the issue and convince your readers to agree with your point of view.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from Literature Something you read may make you aware of an injustice. Using a selection in this unit as springboard, write a persuasive essay about an issue that interests you.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Choose an issue that is current and controversial.</p>

		<p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing from the Real World Complete this statement: If I were president of the United States, I would change _____. Write a persuasive essay enlisting the support of others for your proposal.</p>
10	Research Report	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from the Real World Write a research report that investigates a career that interests you. Subtopics should include educational requirements, job responsibilities and future outlook. The report should include information from at least four sources.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from Literature Write a research report that investigates a topic you discovered in a piece of literature you read. Your report should include data from at least four sources.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from Science Write a research report that answers a scientific question.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing from History Write a research report that poses the solution to a historical mystery.</p>