

McDougal Littell Literature Writing Workshops Grade 9

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Date	Topic	Writing Prompts
November	Business Letter**	
November	Personal Narrative**	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from Your Life Write a personal narrative describing a meaningful experience in your life. Your narrative should explain the significance of the experience and include details that help the reader visualize the characters and unfolding events.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from Literature Incidents and conflicts that characters face can remind us of similar experiences in our own lives. Choose a character whose story you can relate to. Write a personal narrative describing the real-life incident or conflict you are reminded of.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing for a Job Write a letter to a prospective employer describing how a personal experience makes you well suited for the job.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing Inspired by Fine Art In an online museum or a book, find a work of art that reminds you of a significant experience you had. As you write about your experience, include details to create a vivid picture of the setting, characters, and action.</p>
Unit 2	Comparison-Contrast Essay	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from Literature Write an essay comparing and/or contrasting two characters from literature. Your essay should provide your reader with new insights into those characters.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from the Real World Write an essay about two people who exemplify strong contrasts within their profession.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from Your Life Write a short article for a consumer Web site that compares two products that buyers might need help evaluating.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing About Songs Examine the lyrics of two songs from different periods in history. Write an essay that compares and contrasts the two eras, using the songs as a base. Your essay should include quotations about the songs' meanings and messages.</p>

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<p>November</p>	<p>Short Story**</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from the Real World You have probably read many stories that were inspired by real-world events, issues, or people. Write your own short story based on a conflict, person, or setting that you find intriguing.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from Literature The best stories are often the ones that spring from life’s big questions. From this unit choose a prereading question that intrigues you. Then write a short story inspired by that question.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World Write an advertisement in which a product speaks and tells a story illustrating one of its features.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing About Fine Art Find artwork that tells a story or suggests a story to you. Create a story revolving around one of the characters, the setting, or the situation depicted.</p>
<p>Unit 4</p>	<p>Literary Analysis</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from Literature Write an essay analyzing the meaning of a literary work. Your essay should focus on one or more literary elements and explain how they contribute to the work’s meaning.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from the Real World Stories are everywhere—not just your literature anthology. Write analysis of a memorable story you recently viewed or read. Make sure you go beyond a summary of the story to analyze the elements that make it meaningful and interesting.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World Write a critical literary analysis of a song for readers of an online or print music magazine.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing from Media/Fine Art Write an analysis of a visual image such as painting or a television ad. Discuss the characters, settings, and themes.</p>

<p>Unit 5</p>	<p>Problem-Solution Essay</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from the Real World Problems exist at school, at home, in your community, and in the world-at-large. Sometimes writing about a problem can help you find a solution. Choose a problem that deeply interests you, and write an essay in which you define the problem, examine its causes, and explore possible solutions.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from Literature Sometimes, something you read makes you think about a problem in a new way. Choose a problem you found in a literary work that you want to explore. Write an essay in which you describe the problem and identify a possible solution.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World Write a description of a problem with a product or service and tell ways to solve it. Try a complaint letter format.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing About Fine Art Artists must make two-dimensional subjects appear to have depth and must express mood in images. Find subjects in art books or use artwork that your teacher provides. Explain how the artists solved one of these problems.</p>
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<p>January</p>	<p>Persuasive Speech**</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from the Real World Sometimes an issue in your life or your community affects you so deeply that you must speak out to persuade others to see your point of view. Write a persuasive speech in which you attempt to convince your listeners to adopt your opinion or to take the action you propose.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from Literature Choose an issue that was covered in a selection in this unit—an issue that matters to you. Write a persuasive speech in which you respond to the ideas expressed by the writer.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World Write a brief speech to introduce a business idea. Consider what you are “selling” and to whom.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing About Fine Art Write the text for a brief persuasive speech responding to the saying “A picture is worth a thousand words.” Find supporting fine art works at an online museum, in a book, or in those provided by your teacher.</p>
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<p>Unit 7</p>	<p>Personal Response to a Poem</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from Literature Choose a poem or group of poems that caused a strong emotional response in you. Write a personal response that helps you figure out the meaning of the poem or poems. If you wish, include information about how your own memories or experiences affected you reaction.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from the Real World Song lyrics are poems set to music. Write an essay for a music magazine in which you describe your response to a song or a type of music. Give readers specific examples of lyrics to show why the song or type of music matters.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing from the Real World Write a review of the Web site “Poetry 180, a poem a day for american high schools “ for an online poetry journal. Choose two poems as examples to help explain your response to the poetry collection.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing About Fine Art Write several paragraphs for a fine arts magazine, giving your personal response to a painting photograph, or other work of art. Find your subject at a museum’s Web site or in a book.</p>
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<p>Unit 8</p>	<p>Analysis of an Author’s Style</p>	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from Literature Choose a piece of literature and write an analysis of the author’s style. If you can, read several pieces by the same author. Your analysis should help readers understand important elements of that author’s style, such as word choice, sentence structure, tone, figurative language, and imagery.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from the Real World Style isn’t limited to writing. Choose a creative person you know about and write an analysis of his or her distinct style. Explain how that style communicated the individual’s personality, values or message.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from Media Write an analysis of the style in a work of journalism. Keep in mind the medium’s purpose and audience.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing About Food Write an analysis of the style of a good meal you enjoyed recently. Keep in mind that the meal need not be elaborate or expensive, but it should be distinctive in taste and preparation.</p>
<p>March</p>	<p>Persuasive Essay**</p>	<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 attempt to convince readers to support your position.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from Literature Sometimes reading a work of literature can give you a whole new perspective on an issue. Using something you have read as a springboard, write a persuasive essay about an issue that is meaningful to you.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from the Real World Write a persuasive essay directed to a business leader in response to an issue discussed in a newspaper or television editorial.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing About Fine Art Choose a type of artwork or music that you think is valuable and deserves recognition. Write an essay that persuades your audience to agree with you.</p>

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Unit 10	Comparing a Play and a Film	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from Literature Write an essay in which you compare and contrast one scene from the Italian filmmaker Franco Zefirelli's adaptation of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> with the same scene in Shakespeare's play. Your comparison might discuss plot, setting, mood, characters, dialogue, lighting, costumes, or camera angles.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from the Real World Choose a book you have read and enjoyed. Compare and contract it with a film it inspired. Your comparison might discuss plot, setting, mood, characters, dialogue, lighting, costumes, or camera angles.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from the Real World Write a short review comparing two high-tech products for possible purchase.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing About Fine Art Write the text for a Web page about an artist or musician that compares two works by a single artist.</p>
Unit 11	Subject Analysis	<p>Writing Prompt 1 Writing from Literature Choose a topic related to the <i>Odyssey</i> that you would like to understand better. Write a subject analysis in which you examine the parts of your topic in detail.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 2 Writing from the Real World Taking something apart and examining its separate parts is a good way to understand almost anything, from an electronic device to a political concept. Write an analysis of a subject you consider important. Be sure your analysis identifies and explores the significant parts of your subject.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 3 Writing from the Real World Write the text of a critical business letter to company producing a form of news media. Analyze the form and convey a conclusion about it.</p> <p>Writing Prompt 4 Writing About Fine Art Write a review about artwork that conveys a message about society. Use subject analysis to ask and answer a question about that message.</p>

<p>May</p>	<p>Research Paper**</p>	<p><i>Writing Prompt 1</i> Writing from Literature Formulate a question about the <i>Odyssey</i> or another literary work that you would like to explore in detail. Write a research paper that includes data from at least five sources and has Works Cited list.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 2</i> Writing from the Real World Write a research paper that investigates an idea or a question that interests you. Your paper should present your own ideas and interpretations as well as factual information. Include a Works Cited list.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 3</i> Writing About the Working World Write a research paper that investigates career and job opportunities in a particular field of endeavor, such as transportation, graphic design, or medicine. Include information about training, duties and responsibilities, hours, salary, and related work aspects.</p> <p><i>Writing Prompt 4</i> Writing About Fine Art In an online museum or book, find an artist whose work interests you. Write a research paper in which you describe the artist's life and work and analyze two of the artist's most famous creations.</p>
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