

Language Arts — 8th-Grade Writing Assignment

Expository Essay (A)

- Objective:** Students will write a well-organized expository essay. (Standards W2.4b, W2.5a, 2.6b)
- Prompt 1:** Many people experience great disappointments, even failures, in their lives, but nevertheless learn from those experiences. Using what they have learned, they then go on to achieve great things; some even become famous. Others allow disappointments and failures to define or change them; many of these people see themselves as victims, or as “oppressed” people, blaming others for their misfortune. Write an essay that explains the differences between these two kinds of individuals, including what accounts for the differences between the two, why one approach or attitude is better than the other, and how to cultivate the preferred approach or attitude. Be sure to include details, examples, and good reasoning.
- Prompt 2:** A role model is a person you look up to — someone who inspires and motivates you, someone from whom you learn or have learned important lessons about life. Write a composition in which you identify one of your more important role models and explain why this individual has become a role model for you and the impact he or she has had on your life. Include specific details and examples.
- Prompt 3:** It has been said that we “often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude.”
- Thornton Wilder said, “You say, ‘If I had a little more, I should be very satisfied.’ You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled.”
- Charles Haddon Spurgeon added, “We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures.”
- And H.U. Westermayer observed, “The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving.”
- Write a composition about being grateful for what you have, even if it seems to be very little. You may respond to any or all of the quotes above, or you may explain why gratitude is or is not important, its effect on how one lives his or her life, and how gratitude is best expressed. Be sure to use specific details, examples, and good, logical reasons.
- Assignment:** Be sure to write to one, specific prompt; also remember to use specific details, examples, and sound, logical reasons to support your explanations and observations. This assignment is due on _____ .

- Specs:**
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| Format: Standard Composition | Citations Page: NO |
| Margins: 1 inch, top, bottom, left, right | Name, period, date placement: Upper right corner |
| Alignment: Left or fully justified | Name, period, date line spacing: Single |
| Indents: .5 inches for paragraphs | Illustrations / pictures: Not required |
| Line Spacing: 1.5 or double | Extra space between paragraphs: NO |
| Font: Times New Roman, Arial; 11- or 12-pt. | Save copies on your flash drive: YES |
| Title: YES | Title Specs: Assigned fonts; 14- or 16-pt.; centered |
| Turn in all parts of process: YES | Title Note: 1 or 2 blank lines between title and body |
| | How to turn in: Hard copies only |