

Language Arts — 8th-Grade Writing Assignment

Expository Descriptive

Objective: Students will be able to write an effective, persuasive essay. (Standards W2.3, W2.4)

Prompt 1: If you could have any magical ability, what would it be? Clearly explain this ability, how it would feel, look, smell, sound, or taste, how you would use it, and how it would impact your life and the lives of others. And, yes, you can choose one and only one ability. Here are some examples:

flying
invisibility
shrinking
growing
breathing under water
incredible strength
elasticity
shape shifting
controlling water
controlling weather
x-ray vision
burrowing underground

super hearing
telepathy
mind reading
talking to animals
freezing time
self healing
healing others
self teleportation
super intelligence
seeing the future
time travel
super speed

telekinesis
perfect recall
turning objects into gold
talking to the dead
immortality
heat vision
controlling space
controlling gravity
reversing time

Prompt 2: Think about a time when you attended a special event such as a concert, fair, service project, or sports event, or vacationed someplace special such as the mountains, beach, or a national park. Describe what it was like to be there and include sights, sounds, smells, and tastes — as well as what it felt like, what you will remember and why. Create a picture that will place the reader there with you.

Prompt 3: Think about something you do well and greatly enjoy doing — a hobby, skill, or talent. When you are engaged in the hobby or using the skill or talent, how does it make you feel? Why? How important is this to you and why? Exactly what does it feel, sound, look, smell, or taste like? Create a picture that will place the reader there with you when you are engaged in the activity, a picture that will allow them to see, feel, hear, smell, or taste what you do when you are involved with the activity.

Assignment: Write to one, specific prompt; use specific details and/or examples. Use an assortment of vividly descriptive words and imagery; draw on the full range of literary devices available to you. This assignment is due on _____ .

Specs:

- Format:** Standard Composition
- Margins:** 1 inch, top, bottom, left, right
- Alignment:** Left or fully justified
- Indents:** .5 inches for paragraphs
- Line Spacing:** 1.5 or double
- Font:** T. New Rom., Arial, Com. S.; 11- or 12-pt.
- Title:** YES
- Turn in all parts of process:** YES

- Citations Page:** NO
- Name, period, date placement:** Upper right corner
- Name, period, date line spacing:** Single
- Illustrations / pictures:** Not required
- Extra space between paragraphs:** NO
- Save copies on your flash drive:** YES
- Title Specs:** Assigned fonts; 14- or 16-pt.; centered
- Title Note:** 1 or 2 blank lines between title and body
- How to turn in:** Hard copies only