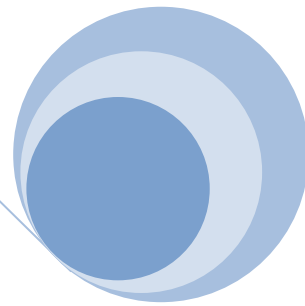




**8<sup>th</sup>  
Grade**



FCAT Writing

Prompts



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Persuasive Essay Prompts

- Situation:** Every year we hear more and more about the importance of passing the FCAT.

**Directions:** Think about the effect preparing for the FCAT has on you.

**Prompt:** Now write to convince an adult to accept your point of view on the effect that preparing for the FCAT has on you.
- Situation:** Your parents are concerned over recent news reports about Myspace.com and similar websites.

**Directions:** Think about the safety issues of using Myspace and other websites.

**Prompt:** Now write to convince your parents whether or not you should have unsupervised access to these websites.
- Situation:** You would like to attend a movie with a boy/girl that you like. Your parents think that you should go with an adult.

**Directions:** Think about at what age you are mature enough to go on dates without an adult present.

**Prompt:** Now write to convince your parents whether or not to allow you to go to the movies unsupervised.
- Situation:** Often students are put into cooperative learning groups in the classroom.

**Directions:** Think about whether working in groups is a good or bad idea for you.

**Prompt:** Now convince your teacher your point of view on cooperative learning groups.
- Situation:** The principal of your school is considering the use of IPODs in the classroom.

**Directions:** Think about ways in which an IPOD could be used in your classroom.

**Prompt:** Now write to convince your principal that IPODs could be used in the classroom.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Persuasive Essay Prompts

6. **Situation:** Your principal is considering allowing a controversial music group to perform at a school dance.
- Directions:** Think about reasons why or why not this controversial music group should be considered.
- Prompt:** Now write to convince your principal to agree with your opinion.
7. **Situation:** Your school offers football, basketball, and track as team sports during the school year. A local shop is offering free equipment to your school in exchange for extreme sports to be added to the program.
- Directions:** Think about the extreme sports that you would like to be offered at your school.
- Prompt:** Now write to convince the principal to agree with your opinion about including extreme sports at your school.
8. **Situation:** Last year 34 people were killed on roller coasters at fairs and carnivals. A senator from Florida is proposing a bill to prohibit roller coasters at fairs and carnivals.
- Directions:** Think about whether you agree or disagree with this bill and why.
- Prompt:** Now write to persuade the senator that roller coasters should or should not be prohibited at fairs and carnivals.
9. **Situation:** A man was recently convicted of murder. A mental condition affected his ability to make rational choices; however, he chose **not** to take his medicine to control his problem and killed an innocent man.
- Directions:** Think about whether or not you feel the government should force mental patients to take their medication and why.
- Prompt:** Now persuade the reader of your paper to accept your point of view on this subject.
10. **Situation:** Imagine that your beloved pet is very ill and in a great deal of pain. Your vet has suggested putting your pet to sleep.
- Directions:** Think about the reasons that your family should or should not agree with the vet's suggestion.
- Prompt:** Now write to persuade your parents to accept your point of view or whether or not to put your pet to sleep.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Persuasive Essay Prompts

11. **Situation:** Your friend is having a party with his/her parent's permission, but his/her parents won't be home. Your parents are uncomfortable with allowing you to attend this party.
- Directions:** Think about the reasons that you should be allowed to go to the party.
- Prompt:** Now persuade your parents to allow you to attend this party.
12. **Situation:** Your principal is trying to decide whether to add or remove computers from the school.
- Directions:** Think about whether your principal should add or remove computers from the school and why.
- Prompt:** Now write to convince your principal to accept your point of view about whether to add or remove computers from the school.
13. **Situation:** Your parents are trying to decide whether you should be allowed to see any movie you want, no matter its rating.
- Directions:** Think about whether you should be allowed to see any movie with any rating that you want.
- Prompt:** Now write to convince your parents to allow you to see any movie you want.
14. **Situation:** Traditionally, students must maintain a certain grade point average in order to be eligible to play sports.
- Directions:** Think about you or a friend wanting to participate in sports. Do you think a certain grade point average should be a requirement for participation?
- Prompt:** Now write to convince your principal that athletes should or should not have to maintain a certain point grade average to participate in sports activities.
15. **Situation:** You want to purchase a very expensive item, but you don't have the money.
- Directions:** Think of that one item that you really want and why.
- Prompt:** Now write to persuade your parents to purchase it for you.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Persuasive Essay Prompts

16. **Situation:** A company has just announced that they plan to build a chemical manufacturing plant next to your home. Local officials have asked for input from nearby residents.
- Directions:** Before you begin writing think about having a chemical plant in your backyard and how it might affect your life.
- Prompt:** Now write to persuade the officials to welcome or reject the plan to build a chemical manufacturing plant next to your home.
17. **Situation:** There is a uniform policy in Polk County elementary and middle schools. The school board is considering extending this policy to be enforced in high schools.
- Directions:** Think about if you think a school uniform policy for high school students is a good or bad idea.
- Prompt:** Now write to persuade the school boards your point of view of uniforms at the high school level.
18. **Situation:** Some girls in your school are interested in trying out for the boys' football team.
- Directions:** Think about if you think girls should or should not be allowed to try out for the football team.
- Prompt:** Now write to persuade your reader your point of view on girls playing football.
19. **Situation:** The City Council believes there should be a curfew of 10PM for children under the age of 16.
- Directions:** Think about if you think a curfew is a good or bad idea for children under 16.
- Prompt:** Now write to persuade your audience to agree with your point of view.
20. **Situation:** Your best friend has been having problems at home and is considering running away.
- Directions:** Think about whether running away is or is not a good idea for your best friend.
- Prompt:** Now persuade to your friend your point of view on running away.
21. **Situation:** You have a major project due in Language Arts and you did not have enough time to complete it. You will ask your teacher for an extension on the project.
- Directions:** Think about the reasons that you feel you should receive an extension.
- Prompt:** Now write to persuade your teacher to allow you more time to complete the project.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Persuasive Essay Prompts

22. Situations: Students often rely on parents to pay for social activities.
- Directions: Think about a social activity that you would like to do and how much it will cost.
- Prompt: Now write to persuade your parents to pay for this activity.
23. Situation: Think about the different places where people live. Some people live in small towns, big towns or cities. They live on farms or houses in the country, or they live in the suburbs.
- Directions: Think about where you would like to live and why.
- Prompt: Now write to persuade your reader that this would be the best place to live.
24. Situation: Many students do not like the contents of their school lunch. Many students throw it out because they don't like the choices presented.
- Directions: Think about the food choices you would like to be included on your school menu.
- Prompt: Now write to persuade your audience to include your food choices on the lunch menu.
25. Situation: Your parents are interested in purchasing a large gift for the whole family to share and they are looking to each family member for suggestions.
- Directions: Think about what you think the family should purchase and why.
- Prompt: Now write to persuade your parents to choose your idea of a gift for the whole family.
26. Situation: The State Department of Transportation and local school officials are considering a law that would require students to earn and retain a GPA of 2.5 or higher in order to obtain a driving permit.
- Directions: Think about your desire and/or need to obtain a driving permit and how a 2.5 GPA would affect you.
- Prompt: Now write to convince officials to accept your point of view on obtaining a driving permit and the required 2.5 GPA.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Persuasive Essay Prompts

27. **Situation:** You have been given an assignment for which you felt you did not have enough time to complete.
- Directions:** Think about why you would need more time to complete your assignment and why.
- Prompt:** Write to convince your teacher to agree with your viewpoint on allowing more time for assignment completion.
28. **Situation:** As a student going into ninth grade, you and your family have to decide whether you should attend a traditional high school or an online high school.
- Directions:** Think about where you believe you should attend high school and why.
- Prompt:** Now write to persuade your parents to allow you to attend the high school of your choice.
29. **Situation:** The U.S. Postal Service has honored many individuals from presidents to singers to cartoon characters, by placing their portraits on postage stamps. Whom would you nominate to honor with a postage stamp?
- Directions:** Before you begin to write, think about why this person should have his or her own stamp.
- Prompt:** Now write an essay to tell the reader whom you would choose and explain why that person should be honored with a postage stamp. Support your ideas with examples and details.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Expository Essay Prompts

1. **Situation:** Professional athletes and celebrities are often in the news because of their behavior.

**Directions:** Think about a professional athlete or celebrity you have read or heard about in the news. Does his/her behavior make him/her a good role model?

**Prompt:** Now write to explain your opinion about the professional athlete or celebrity as a role model.
  
2. **Situation:** Many schools show international news programs during the school day. These programs report on disasters, war, and crime.

**Directions:** Think about how you feel about the viewing of these programs during the school day.

**Prompt:** Write to explain why these programs should or should not be viewed by you and your classmates.
  
3. **Situation:** The use of the Internet in schools has recently been in the news for the safety issues of posting personal information online.

**Directions:** Think about your personal online use of the Internet, such as Myspace, blogs, and Internet messaging.

**Prompt:** Now write to explain how to protect yourself and your privacy online.
  
4. **Situation:** Many people use home computers and are hooked up to the Internet; however, some parents feel the Internet is dangerous, and they don't want their children to have Internet access.

**Directions:** Think about whether or not you think Internet access can be dangerous and why.

**Prompt:** Now write to explain to your audience your point of view on the safety issues of Internet use.
  
5. **Situation:** You are an astronaut on a peaceful, exploratory mission to Planet Q. As a representative from Earth, you are to present three gifts from our planet.

**Directions:** Think about the items you will take to give as gifts and why you chose them.

**Prompt:** Now write to explain to your sponsors why you think these items will make excellent gifts.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Expository Essay Prompts

6. Situation: During the last few years, Florida has experienced devastating hurricanes. Weather experts predict that we will continue to encounter strong storms in the near future.
- Directions: Think about what effects another major storm would have on your personal life.
- Prompt: Now write to explain measures your family could take to be better prepared during another major hurricane.
7. Situation: Your friend has told his parents that he is caught up with his schoolwork in order to be able to go on a family-planned trip. You know that he has lied and is way behind in his work.
- Directions: Think about what you would say to your friend about his actions.
- Prompt: Now write to explain what advice you would give your friend concerning his actions and the possible consequences.
8. Situation: Pretend that you have superhuman powers.
- Directions: Think about all the different types of super powers that you could have and how you would use them.
- Prompt: Now explain to the reader of your paper about your superhuman powers and how you would use them.
9. Situation: You have just won a million dollars in the lottery.
- Directions: Think about the things that you would do with your money and why you would make these choices.
- Prompt: Now explain what you will do with the money that you have just won.
10. Situation: Tonight you've been asked to cook dinner for your family.
- Directions: Think of the foods you will make, how you will prepare them, and serve them.
- Prompt: Now explain to the reader of your paper how you will prepare a dinner for your family.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Expository Essay Prompts

11. **Situation:** Your class has been given money to buy a classroom pet and no one knows how to go about choosing it.
- Directions:** Think about how this pet should be chosen (Who should decide which pet is best? Should the class vote? Should the teacher choose?) and how the choice can be fair.
- Prompt:** Now explain to the reader how your class should choose a class pet.
12. **Situation:** Imagine your friends are pressuring you to do something you don't agree with such as...lying to your parents or...
- Directions:** Think about how you feel about the pressure from your friends to do something you don't want to do.
- Prompt:** Now write to explain to your friends your point of view on this subject.
13. **Situation:** Imagine the department of motor vehicles is considering raising the driving age to 21 years old.
- Directions:** Think about whether or not you think this is a good idea.
- Prompt:** Now write to explain to your reader your point of view on changing the driving age.
14. **Situation:** Eating healthy food is important for good health.
- Directions:** Think about healthy foods and why it's important to eat them.
- Prompt:** Now write to explain why it is important to eat healthy foods.
15. **Situation:** You probably have read many interesting books or watched an exceptional TV show recently.
- Directions:** Think about what made this book or TV show interesting.
- Prompt:** Now write to explain why you liked this book or TV show so much.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Expository Essay Prompts

16. **Situation:** In the holiday season, may people focus on giving to those less fortunate.
- Directions:** Think about the reasons why we should help out those less fortunate throughout the year, as well as during the holiday season.
- Prompt:** Now write to explain the different ways you could help someone less fortunate in the holiday season and throughout the year.
17. **Situation:** There are many types of books and stories. The characters in books make the stories come alive. The characters may be people or animals.
- Directions:** Before you begin to write, think about a character that you like the most. What is your character like? What does your character do in the story?
- Prompt:** Now write an essay that explains why you selected this character as your favorite. Support your choice with specific examples and details from the story.
18. **Situation:** Everyone has dreamed of having one special wish come true.
- Directions:** Before you begin writing, think about what wish you would like to come true. Think about how that wish would change your life or the lives of others.
- Prompt:** Now write an essay that explains why you would like to see your special wish come true. Support your choice with examples and details about how this wish would change your life or the lives of others.