

INFORMATIONAL WRITING TOPICS

1. Read "Teen Drivers," and think about the ideas the author presents. Then, write to explain some ways that your views on teenage driving have been confirmed or changed as a result of reading the article. Be sure to include specific information from the article to support your explanation. Do not merely summarize the article. Remember that your response will be evaluated in two ways—on your understanding of the article and on the quality of your writing.
2. Read "A Lady in a Machine-Shop." Then, write an essay explaining what skills and qualities Margaret Knight possessed that led to her success as an inventor. Be sure to include specific information from the article to support your ideas. Do not merely summarize the article. Remember that your response will be evaluated in two ways—on your understanding of the article and on the quality of your writing.
3. Read "Dandi", about Gandhi's leadership during the salt march when the British wanted to charge the Indians for salt extracted from the ocean. Then, write a letter to the principal of your high school, explaining the effect the food service's decision to charge extra for ketchup has had on the behavior of students.

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WRITING PROMPTS

1. High school is the time when some students begin to look for part-time employment. What is a good part-time job for someone your age? Why would this job be appropriate for a teenager?
2. Identify an activity, such as a hobby, pastime or sport, you enjoy or do well. Explain what you do and why you chose the activity.
3. Many people seem to be concerned about violence. Write suggestions you may have to stop violence and tell why you think they may work.
4. Think about someone you admire. Write to explain the admirable qualities that this person has.
5. Each student in your school has decided to volunteer forty hours of time to improve the community. Explain what work you would do and tell how this work would make a difference in your community.
6. Your school has just hired several new substitute teachers. The principal has asked each student for a suggestion that will help the substitutes succeed. Write to inform the new substitutes about the most important thing they must do to be successful in your school.
7. Most of us have all of our senses: sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste. Think about the role each of these senses plays in your life. Which of your senses would be most difficult to live without? Write to explain to your reader why it would be most difficult to live without this one sense.
8. Everyone is an expert at something. Some people are experts at making things while other people are experts at doing things. Think about something that you make or do well. Explain why you are an expert.
9. Think about inventions that have affected our lives. Select one invention and write to explain why this invention has been good or bad for society.
10. "Dress for success" means different things to different people. Why does it matter how a person dresses? Write an essay explaining what "dress for success" means to you.
11. All of us have favorite people in our lives. We tend to like them because of specific qualities they have or

because of specific things they have done. Why has one person you know become one of the favorite people in your life? Write an essay explaining the qualities and interests that make you like this person.

12. Nothing ever stays exactly the same. Think of a person, place, or thing that is an example of this idea. Think about what someone, someplace or something was like in the past and how differences now exist. How has this change affected you? Write an essay explaining how this person, place or thing has changed.
13. Among all our possessions, we usually consider one or two objects to be very precious. Choose one possession that is very precious to you. Why is it precious to you? Write an essay explaining this precious object and its meaning to you.
14. You are creating a menu to serve to your friends for a special occasion. Recommend your menu; tell why you made the choices you made. Also explain how you will effectively present this meal to your friends.
15. If you could have given advice to a well-known historical figure, who would that figure be, and what advice would you give. Write an essay identifying the historical figure and developing the specific advice.
16. Students in Pennsylvania are being taught to recycle, renew and reuse. Explain what students your age can do to benefit the environment by recycling, renewing and reusing materials.
17. From kitchen appliances, to computers, to entertainment, to communication – technological innovations have affected everyone. Identify one advancement in technology that you could not do without and explain why.
18. Technology is replacing many jobs today. Identify a job that is unlikely to be replaced by technology. Write an essay to explain why a person would be needed to perform the job.
19. High school students have made the journey from childhood to adolescence and are rapidly approaching adulthood. What changes have occurred during this journey?
20. Music is a part of every culture and plays different roles in people's lives. Tell how music plays a role in American culture or in your own life.
21. High school students are faced with making decisions about the world of work. Choose a job/career/profession that interests you. Explain why you might consider it, what preparation you need to pursue it, and what skills you need to be successful.
22. You and a friend are having a conversation about what makes "popular" students popular. Your friend tells you that being popular is important. You decide to write an essay sharing your thoughts about popularity and why you think the way you do.
23. The school district in which you live plans to build a new high school. You have been asked to serve as a student member of the planning committee. What is the single most important feature to include in the new school? Explain why this must be included in the new high school.
24. Your social studies class has been studying important events that have made history during your lifetime. As an assignment, you are to write an essay describing an historical event that has happened during your lifetime — one you will always remember.
25. The local school board plans to change the school year from ten to twelve months. The school board wants to know what students think about this plan. Write to inform the school board of how this will affect you personally.
26. Your local newspaper is publishing a special issue about famous or celebrated people that its readers would like to meet. You have decided to enter an essay about a person you would like to
27. meet. Write to tell why you want to meet this person based on what this person has accomplished.
28. All communities or neighborhoods have concerns that affect their residents. Write about a concern that has affected your community, your neighborhood or you.
29. In the last 100 years, which technological change has contributed the most to American life? Why?
30. Write an essay explaining the effects of this twentieth century technological change on American life.

31. Consider the role automobiles play in American culture. What are the most important effects automobiles have had on American culture? Why? Write an essay explaining the influence the automobile has had on American culture.
32. The needs of society are constantly changing. As a young adult, you will soon enter the constantly changing work force. What skills will you need? Why? Write an essay explaining what skills you will need to succeed in the changing work force.
33. Your school district plans to build a new high school. Your principal has asked students for suggestions that can be given to the building committee. What important features should be included in the new school? Why?
34. Write an essay explaining the important features that should be included in the plan for the new high school.
35. Select a special field of interest to you and explain how and why it will be different thirty years in the future. Some areas you might consider are: technology, fine arts, sports or others. Write an essay explaining how your area of interest will be different thirty years from now.
36. Consider the role automobiles play in American culture. What are the most important effects automobiles have had on American culture? Why? Write an essay explaining the influence the automobile has had on American culture.
37. As a young adult, you will soon enter the constantly changing work force. What skills will you need to succeed? Write an essay explaining how you will use these skills to succeed in the changing work force.