**WRITING TEST PROMPT 1**

**DIRECTIONS:** This test is designed to assess your writing skills. You have 30 minutes to plan and write an essay based on the stimulus provided. Be sure to take a position on the issue and support your position using logical reasoning and relevant examples. Organize your ideas in a focused and logical way, and use the English language to clearly and effectively express your position.

When you have finished writing, refer to the Scoring Rubrics discussed in the Introduction (page 4) to estimate your score.

Foreign-language instruction is declining in public high schools in the United States. Some people think this reflects the rise of English as the accepted language of commerce around the world, and that knowledge of foreign languages is of lessening importance. Other people see the reduction in language study as a sign of the United States’ failure to integrate with the rest of the world and a threat to the nation’s vitality in an increasingly cross-cultural marketplace.

In your opinion, should greater support be given to foreign language programs in high schools in the United States?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about one of the points of view mentioned above, or you may give another point of view on this issue. Use specific examples and reasons for your position.

**WRITING TEST PROMPT 2**

**DIRECTIONS:** This test is designed to assess your writing skills. You have 30 minutes to plan and write an essay based on the stimulus provided. Be sure to take a position on the issue and support your position using logical reasoning and relevant examples. Organize your ideas in a focused and logical way, and use the English language to clearly and effectively express your position.

When you have finished writing, refer to the Scoring Rubrics discussed in the Introduction (page 4) to estimate your score.

Some high schools ban students from driving to and from school if they live in an area with bus service. Adminis- trators think this will reduce morning and afternoon traffic accidents and congestions as well as alleviate morning tar- diness. Opponents say that a student with a driver’s license should have the same right to drive to school as do faculty and staff with licenses. Some students say that while they are technically inside the boundary for bus service, walking to and from the bus stop every day is a major inconvenience.

In your opinion, should high schools ban students’ commut- ing to reduce traffic and tardiness problems?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about one of the points of view mentioned above, or you may give another point of view on this issue. Use specific examples and reasons for your position.

**WRITING TEST PROMPT 3**

**DIRECTIONS:** This test is designed to assess your writing skills. You have 30 minutes to plan and write an essay based on the stimulus provided. Be sure to take a position on the issue and support your position using logical reasoning and relevant examples. Organize your ideas in a focused and logical way, and use the English language to clearly and effectively express your position.

When you have finished writing, refer to the Scoring Rubrics discussed in the Introduction (page 4) to estimate your score.

Some high schools require students and staff to wear name badges any time they are on school property. Some people feel this is an effective measure to take against unauthorized school visitors. Opponents say that so many students will refuse to wear the badge or simply leave it at home that identifying unwanted visitors will be made no easier.

In your opinion, should schools mandate that all students and staff wear a name badge to aid in identifying unaffiliated visitors?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about one of the points of view mentioned above, or you may give another point of view on this issue. Use specific examples and reasons for your position.

**WRITING TEST PROMPT 4**

**DIRECTIONS:** This test is designed to assess your writing skills. You have 30 minutes to plan and write an essay based on the stimulus provided. Be sure to take a position on the issue and support your position using logical reasoning and relevant examples. Organize your ideas in a focused and logical way, and use the English language to clearly and effectively express your position.

When you have finished writing, refer to the Scoring Rubrics discussed in the Introduction (page 4) to estimate your score.

Many high schools have a police liaison officer who works full-time with the student body and the administration to com- bat drugs, violence, and other criminal issues within the school buildings. Supporters of the liaison program feel that the officers are beneficial as an active crime deterrent and first response to incidents within the schools. Opponents say a single officer in each building cannot effectively manage crime in the schools and that police resources are better spent in neighborhoods with more pressing needs.

In your opinion, should a police liaison officer be assigned to every public high school? In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about one of the points of view mentioned above, or you may give another point of view on this issue. Use specific examples and reasons for your position.

**WRITING TEST PROMPT 5**

**DIRECTIONS:** This test is designed to assess your writing skills. You have 30 minutes to plan and write an essay based on the stimulus provided. Be sure to take a position on the issue and support your position using logical reasoning and relevant examples. Organize your ideas in a focused and logical way, and use the English language to clearly and effectively express your position.

When you have finished writing, refer to the Scoring Rubrics discussed in the Introduction (page 4) to estimate your score.

Presently in the United States, it is illegal to intentionally disrupt many kinds of radio transmissions, including those for cellular telephone service. Organizations such as places of worship, public schools, and movie theaters, are calling for exceptions to be made to the law in cases where placing and receiving telephone calls has proven annoying to others. However, some people argue that they are entitled to the cel- lular service they pay for no matter where they may be, that telephone courtesy should remain a personal responsibility, and that cellular users rely on uninterrupted service in case of emergencies at work or at home.

In your opinion, should cellular signal disruptors be allowed in places where phone calls are perceived as annoying?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on this question. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

**WRITING TEST PROMPT 6**

**DIRECTIONS:** This test is designed to assess your writing skills. You have 30 minutes to plan and write an essay based on the stimulus provided. Be sure to take a position on the issue and support your position using logical reasoning and relevant examples. Organize your ideas in a focused and logical way, and use the English language to clearly and effectively express your position.

When you have finished writing, refer to the Scoring Rubrics discussed in the Introduction (page 4) to estimate your score.

In some school districts, policy makers are expanding the radius around the school that does not receive bus service. As a result, more students must walk, bicycle, or seek alter- native transportation to and from school every day. People who support the measure feel that it is a practical solution to alleviate pressure on school budgets, and, coincidentally, encourage more exercise. Opponents say transportation costs will simply be forced upon the students who no longer receive bus transportation, since they will most likely begin driving personal vehicles to school or receiving rides from others.

In your opinion, should school districts limit bus service either to save costs or to promote exercise?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on this question. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

**WRITING TEST PROMPT 7**

**DIRECTIONS:** This test is designed to assess your writing skills. You have 30 minutes to plan and write an essay based on the stimulus provided. Be sure to take a position on the issue and support your position using logical reasoning and relevant examples. Organize your ideas in a focused and logical way, and use the English language to clearly and effectively express your position.

When you have finished writing, refer to the Scoring Rubrics discussed in the Introduction (page 4) to estimate your score.

Some high schools in the United States have installed secu- rity cameras in various locations throughout the school, including the classrooms. Some educators and parents think that student behavior must be constantly monitored in order to ensure the safety of both teachers and students. Others think that security cameras can create distractions during class and even promote bad behavior in some students.

In your opinion, should high schools install security cameras in the classroom?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about one of the points of view mentioned above, or you may give another point of view on this issue. Use specific examples and reasons for your position.

**WRITING TEST PROMPT 8**

**DIRECTIONS:** This test is designed to assess your writing skills. You have 30 minutes to plan and write an essay based on the stimulus provided. Be sure to take a position on the issue and support your position using logical reasoning and relevant examples. Organize your ideas in a focused and logical way, and use the English language to clearly and effectively express your position.

When you have finished writing, refer to the Scoring Rubrics discussed in the Introduction (page 4) to estimate your score.

Some public high schools have started to offer single-sex education, meaning that boys and girls are taught sepa- rately in classes such as chemistry and mathematics. Those in favor believe that, as long as the educational opportuni- ties are equal, separation of the sexes is the best method because there are fewer distractions. They argue that, in separated classes, students are less likely to act out gen- der stereotypes. Those opposed reply that separate is never equal. They believe that single-sex education is a recipe for gender discrimination. In your opinion, should public high schools offer single-sex education?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on this question. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

**WRITING TEST PROMPT 9**

**DIRECTIONS:** This test is designed to assess your writing skills. You have 30 minutes to plan and write an essay based on the stimulus provided. Be sure to take a position on the issue and support your position using logical reasoning and relevant examples. Organize your ideas in a focused and logical way, and use the English language to clearly and effectively express your position.

When you have finished writing, refer to the Scoring Rubrics discussed in the Introduction (page 4) to estimate your score.

Some educators have recently banned students from exhibit- ing visible piercings and tattoos on high school property. They feel that body art, as it is called, distracts student attention from the main purpose of high school, which is education. Tattoos and piercings, they argue, can create an atmosphere of intimidation. Others feel that body art, like other art, should be protected under the law as freedom of expression. They argue that students should be allowed to exhibit visible piercings and tattoos on school property as long as the work is not obscene. In your opinion, should stu- dents be banned from exhibiting visible piercings and tattoos on school property?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on this question. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

**WRITING TEST PROMPT 10**

**DIRECTIONS:** This test is designed to assess your writing skills. You have thirty minutes to plan and write an essay based on the stimulus provided. Be sure to take a position on the issue and support your position using logical reasoning and relevant examples. Organize your ideas in a focused and logical way, and use the English language to clearly and effectively express your position.

When you have finished writing, refer to the Scoring Rubrics discussed in the Introduction (page 4) to estimate your score.

Some high schools in the United States have a policy of ran- dom searches of student lockers for illegal items such as drugs and weapons. Some faculty and staff believe that the searches are necessary in order to protect student safety. Other teachers and administrators believe that the searches infringe on students’ privacy and that searches should only be conducted when there is a reason to suspect that an individual student may have something illegal in his or her locker. In your opinion, should high schools conduct random searches of student lockers to search for illegal items?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about one of the points of view mentioned above, or you may give another point of view on this issue. Use specific examples and reasons for your position.