

DESIGN

Develop extended-response writing prompts.

STEP 1 | SELECT TEXT(S).

- Choose a text (or multiple texts) complex enough to support analysis.
- If using multiple texts, ensure they connect in theme, topic, or perspective.

STEP 2 | DETERMINE THE PRODUCT.

- Opinion/Persuasive/Argumentative | Take a position and support it with reasons and text evidence.
- Informative/Expository | Explain an idea, compare key points, or analyze a story element.
- Narrative | Write or rewrite a story using text details.

STEP 3 | CREATE THE TASK.

- Within 1-2 sentences, reveal the writing format (e.g., an essay, letter/correspondence, article, story, etc.) and the purpose (e.g. compare, explain, describe, persuade, etc.).
- Utilize the academic language like that used on your state assessment.

STEP 4 | COMPLETE THE PROMPT.

- Write an opening sentence that names the text(s) read and/or topics learned about.
- Close the prompt with an expectation that students use text evidence to support their responses.
- Format the prompt so it looks like what your students will see on the state assessment.

Leverage AI to draft prompts.

Generate several different prompts all about... (topic). Make one for each of the following text structures: (list them). Start each prompt with reference to having read... (number) of... (types) texts about... (topic). End each prompt with reference to the response, including details from the text(s) read. All prompts generated should be appropriate for... (grade level) students.



◆ **Persuasive:** Having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War, imagine you are a young person living in either the North or South during that time. Write a letter to a friend trying to convince them that your side is right and should win the war. Explain why your side is fighting and why it's important for them to be successful. Remember to include details from the texts you read.

◆ **Informative:** Having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War, explain to someone who doesn't know much about it what the main differences were between the North and the South before and during the war. Describe things like their economies, ways of life, and what they were fighting for. Remember to include details from the texts you read to show these similarities and differences.

◆ **Informative:** Having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War, write an essay describing the main issues that caused the war. Use vivid words to help someone else understand what these issues were like and why they led to conflict. Include specific details and information you learned from the texts you read to make your description clear and interesting.

◆ **Narrative:** Having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War, imagine you are a young person who witnessed an important event during the war (like a battle, a speech, or a change in your town). Write a story about what you saw and how it made you feel. Describe the event and the people involved, using details you learned from the texts you read to make your story realistic.

SECRET SITE
RESOURCES



DESIGN

Leverage AI to draft prompts for different modes of writing.

Generate several different prompts all about the U.S. Civil War. Make one for each of the following **modes of writing: persuasive, argumentative, informative, and narrative**. Start each prompt with reference to having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War. End each prompt with reference to the response including details from the texts read. Make this prompt appropriate for fifth-grade students.



Here are four different prompts about the U.S. Civil War, each using a different text structure and tailored for fifth-grade students.

Persuasive: Having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War, imagine you are a young person living in either the North or South during that time. Write a letter to a friend trying to convince them that your side is right and should win the war. Explain why your side is fighting and why it's important for them to be successful. Remember to include details from the texts you read.

Argumentative: Having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War, think about the main reasons why the war started. Some people believe slavery was the most important cause, while others think there were other big reasons, too. Write a short essay arguing for what you believe was the MOST important reason the Civil War began. Use information and examples from the texts you read to support your opinion.

Informative: Having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War, explain to someone who doesn't know much about it what the main differences were between the North and the South before and during the war. Describe things like their economies, ways of life, and what they were fighting for. Be sure to include details from the texts you read.

Narrative: Having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War, imagine you are a young person who witnessed an important event during the war (like a battle, a speech, or a change in your town). Write a story about what you saw and how it made you feel. Describe the event and the people involved, using details you learned from the texts you read to make your story realistic.

Rewrite the argumentative prompt for 8th graders.

Argumentative Prompt (8th Grade): Having critically analyzed three articles pertaining to the antecedents of the U.S. Civil War, consider the multifaceted origins of this pivotal conflict. While a prevailing historical narrative emphasizes slavery as the paramount cause, alternative perspectives highlight the significance of economic disparities, states' rights doctrines, and divergent social structures. Construct a well-reasoned essay that advances a clear thesis arguing for what you contend was the MOST significant underlying cause of the Civil War. Your argument must be substantiated by specific textual evidence and examples drawn from the articles you have examined, demonstrating a nuanced understanding of the complexities involved.

DESIGN

Leverage AI to draft prompts for different text structures.

Generate several different prompts all about the U.S. Civil War. Make one for each of the following **text structures: chronological, comparison, and description**. Start each prompt with reference to having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War. End each prompt with reference the response including details from the texts read. Make this text appropriate for fifth-grade students.



Here are three different prompts about the U.S. Civil War, each using a different text structure and tailored for fifth-grade students:

Chronological: Having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War, think about the order in which important things happened that led to the war and during the war itself. Create a timeline or write a paragraph explaining three or four key events of the Civil War in the order they occurred. Be sure to include details about what happened and why each event was important, using information from the texts you read.

Comparison: Having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War, you learned about the North and the South. Think about how these two sides were different in some ways and maybe even similar in others. Write a short piece comparing and contrasting the North and the South before or during the war. You could compare things like their economies, what they believed in, or how they lived. Remember to include details from the texts you read to show these similarities and differences.

Descriptive: Having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War, choose one important part of the war to describe. This could be a battle, a person, or even what life was like for people during that time. Write a paragraph that uses vivid words to help someone else picture what it was like. Include specific details and information you learned from the texts you read to make your description clear and interesting.

Very good. Please rewrite the chronological prompt to tell the students to write an essay with the chronological text structure.

Okay, here's the rewritten chronological prompt, specifying an essay format:

Chronological: Having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War, you've learned about the order in which important events happened. Write an essay that explains three or four key events of the Civil War in the order they occurred (chronological order). For each event, explain what happened and why it was important. Use details from the texts you read to support your explanation.

Use the descriptive prompt you created, but change it to tell students to write an essay describing the main issues that caused the Civil War.

Got it, here's the descriptive prompt rewritten to focus on the causes of the Civil War as an essay:

Descriptive: Having read three articles about the U.S. Civil War, write an essay describing the main issues that caused the war. Use vivid words to help someone else understand what these issues were like and why they led to conflict. Include specific details and information you learned from the texts you read to make your description clear and interesting.