**Expository**

What are the characteristics of a good parent? In an essay to be read by a general audience, explain your ideas about what makes someone a good parent. Include details to support your views.

What are the qualities of a good teacher? In an essay to be read by a general audience of educated adults, explain your ideas about what makes someone a good teacher. Include details to support your views.

What is your ideal vacation? In an essay to be read by a general audience of educated adults, explain your choice of vacation. Include details to support your explanation.

Why did you decide to become a teacher? In an essay to be read by other educators, explain your choice of career. Include details to support your explanation.

What are the most important parts of an effective lesson plan? In an essay to be read by other educators, explain your ideas about the most important parts of an effective lesson plan. Include details to support your explanation.

**Argumentative**

Some people believe that cell phones should be banned in schools in order to eliminate distractions and cheating, while others argue such a ban would interfere with communication between parents and students. In an essay to be read by a parent-teacher association, express your opinion on this issue. Defend your position with reasoned arguments and supporting examples.

Some people argue that homework should be banned in order to give students more recreational time, but others do not agree. In an essay to be read by school administrators, express your opinion on this issue. Defend your position with reasoned arguments and supporting examples.

Some people believe that teachers and students should be held responsible for cleaning schools; however, others think that school districts should continuing employing janitors to do this job. In an essay to be read by a general audience of educated adults, express your opinion on this issue. Defend your position with reasoned arguments and supporting examples.

Some people believe that school uniform policies would remove distractions and help students focus on their studies, but others are against such a policy. In an essay to be read by a parent-teacher association, express your opinion on this issue. Defend your position with reasoned arguments and supporting examples.

Some people argue that banning disposable plastic water bottles would greatly benefit the environment; however, other people oppose such a ban. In an essay to be read by a general audience of educated adults, express your opinion on this issue. Defend your position with reasoned arguments and supporting examples.

**Prompt:** Cyber-bullying, intimidating a child using online technology, has become a problem for a small number of children at a middle school in town. Parents of the harassed children have been calling the school and asking administration to help them handle the problem. Administrators allege that since the problem is not happening during school hours, it is not something they can get involved with. Even though the perpetrator’s identity is not known, one of the affected students is refusing to go to school, citing fear of physical harm.

*Write an essay discussing your position on the school’s role in the cyber-bullying.*

**Prompt:** High school administrators are considering outlawing cell phones at school. Despite a rule restricting cell phones to students’ lockers during the day, some students still find ways to carry the phones, text-message each other, or use their phones at school because parents can leave phone messages for their students by calling the office, and students are allowed to use a pay phone or a phone in the office if they need to make a call.

*Write an essay discussing your position on the issue of banning cell phones in school.*

**Prompt:** Technology has launched us into a new era and, with it, a new way of living with and relating to one another. It has opened doors and allowed us to accomplish things that would have been impossible in the past: we are able to keep up closely with a large number of people in an easy and comfortable way. As it continues to develop, social media technology will, time and again, offer us new and better ways of staying in touch with one another and, because of it, will make our lives and our relationships fuller and more meaningful.

*Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with this opinion. Support your position with specific reasoning and examples from your experience, observations, and reading.*

**Prompt:** Many high schools have begun to adopt 1:1 technology programs, meaning that each school provides every student with a computing device, such as a laptop or tablet. Educators who support these initiatives say that the technology allows for more dynamic collaboration and that students need to learn technology skills to compete in the job market. On the other hand, opponents cite increased distraction and the dangers of cyberbullying or unsupervised internet use as reasons not to provide students with such devices.

*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.*

**Additional Writing Prompts for West-B Practice**

**Expository Prompts**

What are the qualities of a good teacher?

What reasons made you decide to become a teacher?

What is your ideal vacation?

What are the qualities of an ideal friend?

How do you create an effective lesson plan or syllabus?

What are the similarities or differences between the younger generation and your own?

What are the characteristics of types of people you have met in school?

**Argument/Persuasion Prompts**

What are the effects of television on students’ grades--good, bad, negligible?

Should national elections take place on a weekend rather than a Tuesday?

Should states require students to pass standardized tests in order to begin high school?

Should high school athletes be subjected to involuntary drug testing?

Should students and teachers (not janitors) be responsible for keeping their school clean?