

FCAT Writing Prompts

Writing prompts, both narrative and expository, are provided for Artful Truth lessons #2 through #10 below. These prompts give your students a contextual writing topic to demonstrate both organized writing and understanding of Artful Truth concepts. Encourage your students to plan and organize their thoughts before writing, as they should do during the actual FCAT Writing Test. Graphic organizers and other pre-writing tools should be used in pre-testing exercises.

For additional information and sample FCAT materials, visit Florida's Department of Education Web site at www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat.htm

Lesson 2 • You're a Living Target!

NARRATIVE: Directional signs are important to tell you where you are, where to go, and where not to go. Imagine that you and your best friend are exploring a forest trail and you come to a split in the path. You find a directional sign that reads: "DO NOT go this way! Stick to the trail out of the woods." Your friend convinces you to explore the forbidden path. Tell a story about what happens next!

EXPOSITORY: Messages are everywhere, serving different purposes. Some messages tell or inform, others identify something, and some try to persuade you to do something. Think of a message you've seen on a cereal box. Now explain what the message was and what its purpose was.


Lesson 3 • Signs of the Times

NARRATIVE: The circus is in town! On your way, you are stopped by a DO NOT WALK signal. Waiting at the corner with you is an elderly lady walking her poodle. Across the street is a clown taking his pet elephant out for a morning walk. The sign changes to WALK. Think about what happens next. Now write a story about what happens next.

EXPOSITORY: Traffic signs are everywhere. It would be impossible to drive safely without them. Think about why it is important to obey traffic signs and symbols. Now, in your writing, explain why it is important to obey traffic signs and symbols.

Lesson 4 • Letting One Thing Stand for Another

NARRATIVE: Imagine that you are walking alone on the way home from school. You notice a small shiny object hidden in the bushes. What you find is a strange metal object with unknown symbols all over it. You pick it up and turn it over in your hands. As you wipe away the dirt, you notice that the object is becoming ice cold... Tell a story about what happens next!

EXPOSITORY: This symbol:  is used to symbolize many things. Think of ways this symbol is used. Explain how and why this symbol might be used.

Lesson 5 • Loco about Logos

NARRATIVE: You have a secret identity: you are a superhero! This morning at breakfast you are examining logos on your cereal box when a flash in the sky catches your attention. It's your superhero logo signal! The city needs you. You turn on the morning news and find out that disaster has struck! You must leave your cereal and go to the rescue of your city. Tell a story about what happens next!

EXPOSITORY: Companies and businesses are coming up with creative ways to display their logos. From blimps, buses, floors, and clothing, they are everywhere. You have a logo that you want everyone to see often and everywhere. Think about how and where you can display your logo. Now tell how you will place your logo to get everyone's attention.

Lesson 6 • We're All Messengers

NARRATIVE: Imagine that you are watching TV and suddenly you get pulled into one of your favorite commercials. Around you are the actors in the commercial and the product being sold. Think about when you became part of a favorite television commercial. Now tell a story about what happened when you became part of your favorite television commercial.

EXPOSITORY: Most printed advertisements have certain parts included within the ad. They might include the logo, character, company name, brand name, copy, or slogan. Describe at least three of these and tell why they are important in an advertisement.

Lesson 7 • Built to Persuade

NARRATIVE: Have you ever tried to convince your parents or grandparents to get you something that you have seen in an advertisement? Think about a time when you just HAD to have something (such as snack food, toy, or clothing). Now tell about that time you tried to convince someone to buy it for you.

EXPOSITORY: Advertisers will try anything to persuade you to buy their product. Sometimes they will even mislead you to believe something that is not true. Think about why advertisers should be truthful in their ads. Now tell why advertisers should be truthful in their ads.

Lesson 8 • Words and Fonts Go Hand in Hand

NARRATIVE: While snooping around in a closet, you happen to find a dusty, rusty trunk. Opening it, you pull out a heavy book wrapped loosely in a dirty cloth. The book has a dark leather cover. The title is written in a font that seems mystical or magical. The pages inside appear to be hand-written in beautiful and colorful lettering. You turn each page carefully... Write a story about what happens next.

EXPOSITORY: Pretend you are assigned to design a newsletter for your school. When creating a font for your newsletter, you need to consider size, color, thickness, and style. Think about what type of font you would create for your school's newsletter. Now tell what your font looks like and why you created it for your school newsletter.

Lesson 9 • Constructed Realities Look Real

NARRATIVE: Everyone has been persuaded at some time to buy a product or toy by seeing a commercial or ad. Think about a time when you bought a toy expecting it to be just like the commercial, but turned out differently? Did it not do what you expected? Was it poorly made? Was it not worth the money? Now write about this time when a toy or game turned out not to be what you expected from a commercial or ad.

EXPOSITORY: Sometimes advertisers will use movie stars or famous athletes in their commercials. These people are paid to use the product. Think about the reasons why an advertiser would pay a famous person to use or promote their product. Now tell why an advertiser would pay a famous person to use or promote their product.

Lesson 10 • Putting Out a Smoke Screen

NARRATIVE: Have you ever been annoyed by the smoking of others? Think about a time when you were bothered by cigarette smoking. Now tell about that time when you were bothered by cigarette smoke.

EXPOSITORY: There are many reasons not to smoke. Think about some reasons why students should not start to smoke. Now tell why students should not start to smoke.