

Sophomore Writing Prompt

Expository/Persuasive Essay

“The Pedestrian” and “Long Way Home”

Persuasive Essay: Persuasive writing attempts to **convince** the reader that the point of view or course of action recommended by the writer is valid.

Writing Situation: Many authors of science fiction present ideas of what the future will be like in their literature. Some think that the future will be a happy time to live in, while others think that the future will be miserable. The short stories “The Pedestrian” and “Long Way Home” present a view of the future which is gloomy and sad for the people who live in the time period. The authors present a world that has technology far beyond what we do today, but the people are not happy. The stories are similar in that way, but are also different, because the people are unhappy for different reasons. In “The Pedestrian,” the people are not allowed to make their own decisions, which cause them to be figuratively dead. In “Long Way Home,” the people are allowed choices, but these choices lead one of the main characters to feel alone and incomplete.

Writing Directions: In a clear and thoughtful essay, explain both stories and then persuade the reader of what you think future society will be like. Tell if it will be depressing like the two stories or if it will be a place where people are happy. You will want to use specific examples from our society to support your thoughts as well as address possible arguments against your opinion. You must mention both of the stories in your paper.

Rubric Score	Point Value	Rational for Grade
4+	90-100	The essay explains both stories and persuades the reader with solid specific detail and gives specific support for each argument. Both of the stories are mentioned in the story as background for the reader. The paper will also address arguments against the thesis. The paper uses sophisticated vocabulary, sentence structure and is edited.
4	80-89	The essay explains both stories and persuades the reader with solid arguments and gives specific support for each argument. Both of the stories are mentioned in the story as background for the reader. The paper will also address arguments against the thesis. The paper tries to use sophisticated vocabulary, sentence structure and is edited but contains mistakes.
3	70-79	The essay explains and persuades the reader with good arguments and gives some specific support for each argument. Both of the stories is mentioned in the story as background for the reader. The paper will also address arguments against the thesis. The paper lacks sophisticated vocabulary, sentence structure and editing needs to be better.
2+	60-69	The essay almost explains and persuades the reader with good arguments but needs some specific support for each argument. One or both of the stories may not have been mentioned in the story as background for the reader. The paper may not address arguments against the thesis. The paper lacks sophisticated vocabulary, sentence structure and editing needs to be better.
2	50-59	The essay does not explain or persuade the reader with good arguments and lacks any specific support. One or both of the stories may not have been mentioned in the story as background for the reader. The paper may not address arguments against the thesis. The paper lacks sophisticated vocabulary, sentence structure and was not edited at all.
1	0-49	This is just plain bad!!! Bad!!! Bad!!! What were you thinking?

