

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

STAAR Essay Practice

Sample Prompt: Write an essay explaining whether it is better to work by yourself or in a group. Which side would you take, and how could you connect this prompt to *Alas, Babylon*?

Sample Prompt: Write an essay explaining the dangers of excessive pride. How could you connect this prompt to *the Odyssey*?

Sample Prompt: Write an essay explaining the power of forgiveness. How could you connect this prompt to *Romeo and Juliet*?

Sample Prompt: Write an essay explaining why all life, big or small, is valuable. How could you connect this to *Of Mice and Men*, “The Ones who Walk Away from Omelas,” or *Our Town*?

Sample Prompt: Write an essay explaining how failure can lead to success. What is something we have read this year that you could connect to this prompt? How?

Sample Prompt: Write an essay explaining the profound impact small decisions can have. What is something we have read this year that you could connect to this prompt? How?

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Prompt 1- Write an essay explaining the most important qualities of a role model.

Thesis:

Body Paragraph (topic sentence, example, analysis):

Paragraph Checklist:

- € Is the topic sentence general? You should not name your example in your topic sentence. (An exception can be made if you are utilizing a creative topic sentence introduction. This approach is usually only for the second body paragraph.)
- € Does the topic sentence address one of the two topics listed in their thesis statement?
- € Does the example relate to the topic addressed in the topic sentence?
- € Is the example specific? (e.g. It talks about President Obama instead of addressing presidents in general.) We want to avoid hypothetical examples!
- € Read the analysis. Does the analysis explain why that quality is important for the role model in your example?
- € Does the body paragraph include a “big picture connection” or a lesson that can be learned?
- € Does the body paragraph have a concluding statement or transition sentence instead of stopping abruptly?

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Prompt 2- Write an essay explaining whether creativity is necessary for success.

Thesis:

Body Paragraph (topic sentence, example, analysis):

Paragraph Checklist:

- € Is the topic sentence general? You should not name your example in your topic sentence. (An exception can be made if you are utilizing a creative topic sentence introduction. This approach is usually only for the second body paragraph.)
- € Does the topic sentence address one of the two topics listed in their thesis statement?
- € Does the example relate to the topic addressed in the topic sentence?
- € Is the example specific? (e.g. It talks about President Obama instead of addressing presidents in general.) We want to avoid hypothetical examples!
- € Read the analysis. Does the analysis explain why the individual in your example needs creativity in order to be successful?
- € Does the body paragraph include a “big picture connection” or a lesson that can be learned?
- € Does the body paragraph have a concluding statement or transition sentence instead of stopping abruptly?

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Prompt 3- Write an essay explaining the importance of friendship.

Thesis:

Body Paragraph (topic sentence, example, analysis):

Paragraph Checklist:

- € Is the topic sentence general? You should not name your example in your topic sentence. (An exception can be made if you are utilizing a creative topic sentence introduction. This approach is usually only for the second body paragraph.)
- € Does the topic sentence address one of the two topics listed in their thesis statement?
- € Does the example relate to the topic addressed in the topic sentence?
- € Is the example specific? (e.g. It talks about President Obama instead of addressing presidents in general.) We want to avoid hypothetical examples!
- € Read the analysis. Does the analysis explain why friendship is important in your example?
- € Does the body paragraph include a “big picture connection” or a lesson that can be learned?
- € Does the body paragraph have a concluding statement or transition sentence instead of stopping abruptly?