

Grade 11

2016: The school guidance counselors are seeking ideas for a presentation for first-year high school students on the habits and behaviors that are necessary to be successful in high school.

Think about which habit or behavior you think is most necessary to achieve success in high school.

Write a persuasive essay convincing the guidance counselors this habit or behavior should be included in their presentation. Support your idea with reasons and examples.

2015: A local committee will fund one project to improve your school, neighborhood, or community.

Think about something you feel should be added or changed.

Write a persuasive essay convincing the committee your project is the best choice. Provide reasons and/or examples to support your argument.

2014: Each person has a set of character traits that make him or her a unique individual. These character traits show what is important in a person's life and the choices he or she makes.

Think about one character trait you believe everyone should possess. This trait could be honesty, self-determination, work ethic, or you may select one of your own choosing to write about.

Write a persuasive essay convincing another 11th grade student why this trait is essential. Provide a clear position by using details and examples to support your argument.

2013: The principal has formed a committee to revise the student handbook and has asked for recommendations.

Think about a rule that should be added, changed, or removed.

Write a persuasive essay convincing the principal's committee to accept your recommendation. Provide reasons and/or examples to support your idea.

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2012: A generous millionaire has agreed to fund a one-week trip for a group of ten students from your school.

Think about a local, national or global place. This trip could be a vacation spot and/or include a particular event, awards ceremony, sporting event, or festival.

Write a persuasive essay convincing the millionaire that your trip should be chosen. Consider the attractions and educational benefits of your choice.

2011: Students have the opportunity to experience many classes in high school.

Think about **one** class you would recommend students take before graduating from high school.

Write a persuasive essay stating your recommendation. Provide reasons to convince underclass members that this class is a valuable experience.

2010: The school board has received funds to support one current or one new activity/program.

Think about a current or new activity/program you would support. It could be artistic, athletic, dramatic, educational, or social.

Write an essay persuading the school board that yours is a good choice. Give specific reasons to support your recommendation.

2009: The school counselors are planning a series of panel discussions to address challenges facing teens. They are seeking student recommendations for topics.

Think about the challenges facing teenagers today. Identify what you think is the most serious challenge for teens in your school.

Write a persuasive essay identifying the teen challenge you think should be the first topic for the panel discussions. Provide specific examples and reasons to support your recommendations to the counselors.

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2008: A graduate from your high school has made a large financial gift to your school and has requested that the money be used to improve the educational experience for students. This donor has also asked that students be able to recommend how the money should be used.

Think about how this financial gift should be used at your school. It could be used to expand the use of technology, add new courses, or improve the library or media center. Choose one of these options or one of your own.

Write a persuasive essay stating your recommendation. Provide supportive reasons to convince school officials why the money should be spent on your recommendation.

2007: The Junior Class at your school has decided to ask the school administration to consider granting a special privilege or opportunity to seniors next year.

Think about a privilege or opportunity you would like to have as a senior. It could be a late start or early dismissal class schedule, a class trip, a seniors-only lounge or locker area, or some other privilege or opportunity just for seniors.

Write a persuasive essay convincing the school administration to adopt your recommendation for a specific privilege or opportunity. Provide reasons to support your recommendation.

2006: Your school is planning to bring in a celebrity speaker. A selection committee is asking students to submit recommendations for possible speakers.

Think about a noteworthy person who would appeal to the students in your school. It could be a famous entertainer, a political figure, a well-known athlete, or someone from your community.

Write an essay persuading the selection committee to choose this person. Provide specific reasons to support your recommendation.

2005: The Board of Education in your school district has asked students to make recommendations about what new elective courses should be added to the high school curriculum.

Think about an elective course such as diesel mechanics, radio/television broadcasting, landscape architecture, fashion design, filmmaking, or any other elective course you would like to be offered.

Write a persuasive essay that offers to the Board of Education reasons for approving your choice of an elective course.

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2004: Your school has received a donation of money, which could be used in the following ways: improving the cafeteria, buying computers, or taking field trips.

Choose one of these options OR choose one of your own.

Write a persuasive essay with reasons to convince school officials why the money should be spent on your choice.

2001: Assume that the Nebraska legislature is considering a bill that would prohibit high school students from working at after-school jobs during the school year.

1—Determine your position on this proposal.

2—In a persuasive essay, present your opinion and provide specific examples to support it.