

2 Formal Writing Prompts for English-Language Arts Grades 7-10

These writing prompts are a gift to **Writing Points** subscribers from You-Can-Teach-Writing.com

You may

- Use them in classes you teach.
- Make copies for your students.
- Adapt or modify the prompts as you wish.

On the web page that corresponds to this material, you can [learn how to use these prompts, including how to modify their level of difficulty](#). You can also see a discussion of [thesis statements that respond to these prompts](#) on the website. The Writing Points subscribers-only resource file where you found this document has a downloadable copy of the thesis statements.

For a text version of these writing prompts that you can use without retyping, [click here](#).

If you use or adapt these materials for your classes, the courtesy of an acknowledgment would be most appreciated. You can even share how you used a prompt in the [writing prompt teachers forum](#).

Onomatopoeia

The literary term onomatopoeia sounds very sophisticated. Yet everyone who has ever seen a television cartoon or read a comic book has encountered onomatopoeia. Besides cartoons and comic books, other published sources where onomatopoeia is often found include

- Poems
- Short stories
- Advertisements
- Plays
- Song lyrics
- Children's story books

You can think of lots of others, I'm sure.

Write a short essay in which you define onomatopoeia in your own words and explain it so your friends will understand what it means.

In your essay

- Show how onomatopoeia is used in a variety of situations.
- Use specific examples from at least three different kinds of published sources.

Your essay should be **fewer than 300 words**, but it must have

- An introduction paragraph.
- At least one body paragraph.
- An ending paragraph.

For maximum credit, you must

- Define onomatopoeia in your own words, not words you copied from a book or website.
- Identify a specific example of onomatopoeia in each of three different types of material.
- Give full name of the author of each example, if one is given in the material.
- Give the title of each example with correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.
- Meet all standard writing assignment requirements for this course.

Effective online searching

Many people use a search engine such as Yahoo, Google, or MSN when they need information. Sometimes students get so many results that they are overwhelmed with all the information.

How can students keep that from happening?

Write a five-paragraph essay in which you explain three ways students can be more effective online searchers. To support your points, you may use

- Your personal experience.
- Your observations of how other people do online searches.
- Suggestions from published sources, such as websites, books, magazine articles, TeacherTube videos, etc.

Write your essay in the third person. In other words, describe how a student can be an effective researcher. Do not give the reader orders about what to do.

For maximum credit, you must include at least one piece of supporting evidence of each of these three types:

- Your personal experience or observation.
- Information you got directly from another person.
- Information from a published source. You must include enough information about your published source that someone else can find the information you used.

Naturally, you must also meet all the standard writing requirements for this course.

Your completed essay should be no more than 500 words.