

# ACT ASPIRE

## Exemplar Writing Test Questions

### Grade 3

#### Reflective Narrative Writing

You are going to write a **story** about a time when you tried something new.

Think about how you felt when you tried something new, and what you learned about trying new things.

Here are some questions to help you think about your story and plan it.

- What did you try and did anyone help you?
- How did you feel while trying this thing?
- Did you ever want to give up?
- Will you try more new things in the future? Why or why not?
- How did this change the way you feel about trying new things?

Now, Write a story that **describes** a time when you tried something new. Your story should tell your reader what you **learned** about trying new things.

### Grade 4

#### Analytical Expository Writing

You are going to write an **essay** to explain the qualities of a good friend.

Think about your best friend. Think about what makes this person a good friend.

Here are some questions to help you think about your essay and plan it.

- Who is this person, and what do you like to do together?
- Why is this friend important to you?
- What makes this person your best friend? Why not someone else?
- What kinds of things do all good friends have in common?

Now, write an essay in which you **describe** your best friend and **explain** the qualities of a good friend. Be sure to include reasons and details that help your reader understand what makes this person a good friend and what qualities all good friends have.

### Grade 5

#### Persuasive/Argumentative Writing

You are going to write an **essay** in which you express and support your opinion.

Your principal wants to invite a special guest to speak to all the students about the value of hard work, and is trying to decide which person to bring in: a scientist or an athlete. Which speaker would you pick to come to your school to talk about the value of hard work, and why?

Write an essay in which you give reasons for your choice and explain why your choice is better than the other option. Be sure to include details and examples to support your reasons.

## Grade 6

### Reflective Narrative Writing

You are going to write a **reflective narrative**.

As you get older, people expect more of you. Think about a new responsibility that you have taken on in the past year. What were some of the challenges you faced as you assumed this new responsibility, and how did you deal with those difficulties? Write a **story** to show what it was like to take on a new responsibility, and **reflect** on what you learned from this experience. Be sure to use descriptive details to show what this experience means to you.

## Grade 7

### Analytical Expository Writing

You are going to write an **essay** to explain how an invention can have an effect on our lives.

Think about one invention that influences the way you live. What is this invention and how does it affect your life? Write an essay to **explain** how this invention influences your life, and **discuss** how inventions can change the way people live. Be sure to use reasons and details in your explanation.

## Grade 8

### Persuasive/Argumentative Writing

Kim loves learning to speak French. In addition to her French class, she takes lessons after school. Kim does well in these after-school lessons, but that don't leave her much time to do homework for her other classes. Kim wants to keep taking the extra French lessons, but she doesn't want to do poorly in her other classes.

Should Kim keep taking extra French language lessons? Consider the positions below as you think about how you would answer this question.

- Yes—It is wise to focus on excelling in one area.
- No—It is better to be a well-rounded student.

Now, take a position on this question, and write a **persuasive essay** in which you argue for your position. Be sure to provide reasons for your position and examples to support your reasons.

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