

40-minute Timed writing:

Choose one prompt to write on. Write your essay in Word, then print it and hand it in (be sure to save it first, in case the hardcopy gets misplaced).

Some of the parents at your school have started a campaign to limit the homework that teachers can assign to students. Teachers at your school have argued that the homework is necessary. What is your position? Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper stating your position and supporting it with convincing reasons.

The state department of education has provided funding for an experimental online school. All the classes will take place on the Internet, using email, online chat, and the world wide web. The students taking classes at this new online school will never meet each other face-to-face. They will only interact online with each other and with their teachers. The state is hoping this program will provide fairer educational access to students in outlying, rural areas. Opponents of the program argue that because of their lack of interaction with other students in a traditional classroom, the students who attend this online school will not develop the social skills that should be a component of their education. What is your position on this issue? Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper stating your position on this issue and supporting it with convincing reasons.

Congress is debating adding a new national holiday to honor and celebrate stepparents. You could describe how the holiday should be observed or celebrated. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper arguing for or against such a holiday.