

How to Dissect a Writing Prompt

Directions

1. Carefully read the **Writing Prompt** and use the following symbols or color highlight to mark the words that fit into these categories:

WHO, WHAT, HOW, DO

WHO

Underline any words which identify the audience or the role of the writer.

○WHAT○

Circle any words which identify the topic, context, or purpose of the writing task.

[HOW]

Bracket any words which identify the writing format or the resources to use.

□DO□

Box any words which identify key writing direction words.

2. Then write a one sentence **Thesis Statement** in which you state the **WHO, WHAT,** and **HOW.**

Sample Writing Prompts

SAT® Essay

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

Assignment: Is it better for people to learn from others than to learn on their own? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

Thesis Statement

California State University, English Placement Test

Directions: You will have 45 minutes to plan and write the essay assigned below. Before you begin writing, consider the topic carefully and plan what you will say.

Essay Question: Most people have read a book or seen a play, movie, or television program that affected their feelings or behavior in some important way. Discuss such an experience of your own. Describe the book, play, movie, or television program and explain why you regard its effect on you as important.

Thesis Statement

Advanced Placement Exam, English Literature and Composition

Essay Question: Some novels and plays seem to advocate changes in social or political attitudes or in traditions. Choose such a novel or play and note briefly the particular attitudes or traditions that the author apparently wishes to modify. Then analyze the techniques the author uses to influence the reader's or audience's views. Avoid plot summary.

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