Persuasive Prompts:

* Some members of the school board in your community have recommended that all students be required to do community service each semester. Students are invited to express their opinions, in writing, for or against required community service.
* The principal of a local school wants to ban jewelry, hats, and leather jackets in school and set up a standard dress code for all students. Write an essay that argues for – or against -- the idea of a school's having a standard dress code.
* A teacher, a student, and a member of the town council appear on a local TV talk show and debate whether television does more good than harm, or the reverse. The program's host invites his home audience to write in their views.
* In each of the following, the word “explain” signals an expository (not narrative) essay. You could change any of the content words in the prompts, especially the adjectives, to create many more prompts.
* Who is the most surprising person you know? Write an essay about that person, explaining what makes them so surprising.
* Who is the most helpful person you know? Write an essay about that person, explaining what makes them so helpful.
* Who is the most focused person you know? Write an essay about that person, explaining what makes them so focused.
* Who is the funniest person you know? Write an essay about that person, explaining what makes them so funny.
* Where is the place you consider the most exciting? Write an essay about that place, explaining what makes it so exciting.
* Where is a place you consider the most peaceful? Write an essay about that place, explaining what makes it so peaceful.
* What is an important possession you have lost? Write an essay about that possession, explaining its importance to you.
* What is one of your favorite possessions? Write an essay about that possession, explaining what makes it one of your favorites.
* Explain the meaning of bravery.
* Explain the importance of failure.
* Explain the significance of responsibility.
* Explain the effects of stress.
* Explain the kinds of friendship.
* Explain the value of hope.
* Explain the sources of pride.
* Explain the difficulties of trustworthiness.