

8th Grade Argumentative Writing Prompt

Directions to the Student

After you finish your prewriting activity, write your paper in the space provided. You may use a standard dictionary, thesaurus, or grammar handbook to check your paper for correctness.

Please refer to the writer's checklist as you are writing your response to the prompt.

Writer's Checklist

- My paper has an effective beginning, middle, and end.
- My paper includes effective use of paragraphing.
- My paper stays on the topic.
- My paper flows smoothly from one idea to another.
- My paper contains a strong controlling idea.
- My paper includes specific and relevant details, reasons, and examples.
- My paper uses precise and vivid language.
- My paper contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure.
- My paper includes correct grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

Writing Prompt

The school board of your district is considering making the school day longer by adding an extra hour. The purpose for lengthening the school day is to provide more time for learning. Others believe students will get too tired and a longer school day will interfere with sports. The school board is seeking input from all community members.

Consider the advantages and disadvantages of lengthening the school day by an hour. Write an argumentative essay to a school board member convincing him/her whether or not to increase the school day. Include facts, details, and precise language as they are appropriate in your writing.