

College Readiness

Prompt Sequence: Grades: 9-12 | Genre: Analysis & Argumentative

This nine-week prompt sequence features a thoughtfully-designed set of high school prompts for students preparing to enter higher education. Featured topics from our Signal Check and Spot Check libraries focus on the essential elements of argumentative and analytical writing, such as reasoning and critical thinking, two of the most crucial genres of college writing. Activities from our Expansion Pack Library and Curriculum Resources page further solidify their communication skills and help to prepare students for argumentative and analytical writing in college and beyond.

Week 1: Diagnostic

Assign **Prep Work** in Spot Check as a diagnostic writing task to get a baseline regarding students' starting levels in each trait of this argumentative prompt, a crucial genre of college writing.

Week 2: Review

Print and discuss the **Prep Work** Exemplar Essays. Utilize exemplar activities with students to illustrate and define key elements of successful argumentative writing.

Week 3: Preparation

Use the Assignment Report to see where students struggled on the diagnostic assignment. Prepare students for their formative assignment by leading an Expansion Pack activity aimed at improving areas of weakness.

Week 4: Formative Assignment

Use Signal Check to assign **Sometimes, the Earth is Cruel** for students to practice analytical writing and higher-order critical thinking skills and receive formative, actionable feedback on their writing.

Week 5: Skill Building

Use the Assignment Report to see where students struggled in their formative assignment. Lead an Expansion Pack Activity that addresses weaker areas.

Week 6: Preparation

Print and discuss the **Big Data** Exemplar Essays. Highlight areas in the exemplar writing that are areas of particular strength or weakness that relate to students' own strengths and needs.

Week 7: Formative Assignment

Use Signal Check to assign **Big Data** for students to practice learned analytical writing skills and receive formative, actionable feedback on their writing.

Week 8: Skill Solidifying

Use the Assignment Report to see where students struggled on their formative assignment. Implement activities from the Expansion Pack aimed at addressing weaker areas in order to prepare students for their culminating writing task.

Week 9: Culminating Writing Task

Assign **Protection or Privacy** in Spot Check as a culminating writing task to assess the students' progress on the skills of this unit of study.

