COMMON QUARTERLY ASSESSMENT: WRITING PROMPTS

NOTE: Prompts that are in plain fonts may be used at the teacher's discretion;

bold/italicized prompts should be used as the district-wide CQAs.

QUARTER	1 st CQA: narrative	2 nd CQA: explanatory/informative	3 rd CQA: argument/opinion
	Express and reflect	Inform and explain	Take a stand/propose a solution/ report/ respond
GRADE LEVEL		Analyze and interpret	to informational and literary text, etc.
9 th	Descriptive Essay	Process Essay	<u>Editorial</u>
	Choose a book, story, or movie that is	People deal with problems throughout life. It may	Identify an issue in the school, community, or world
	important to you. Write a narrative essay that	be losing a job, failing a class, or getting into	that concerns you. Write a persuasive essay
	tells the story of why it is important to you.	college. Think of a problem you had to solve	expressing your concern, propose a solution, and
		recently and explain how you solved it.	explain why your solution is best. NOTE: Teachers
	Write an autobiographical narrative about an		are encouraged to provide students with articles,
	event that taught you a valuable lesson.	Think of a story you have read or watched in	video clips, and other resources to prepare them for
		which the main character has a significant	this writing.
	Choose an object/possession/artifact that is	problem he or she has to solve. In a well-written	
	important to you. Describe the object and	essay, explain the problem, the process, and the	Text-based assessment: Read the following sources
	explain the object's importance in a narrative	outcome.	and then synthesize <u>three</u> of the sources into a
	essay.		well-developed essay that develops a position
			about what are the most important issues to consider when making decisions about <u>space</u>
			exploration. Ensure that you develop a clear
			position for your essay. Use the sources to develop
			your position. Avoid summarizing the sources.
			Provide citations for the sources that you
			use. (Document link will be provided.)
10 th	Point of View Essay	Compare/Contrast Essay	Persuasive Essay
	Recall a children's story, fable, or fairy tale with	Compare your view of yourself to how you think	Restrictions and safety measures have been
	which you are familiar. Rewrite the story in a	others view you. Based upon the comparison,	proposed to shield students from the risks of social
	different time or place or from a different	what do you realize about yourself?	media. Explain the risks and benefits of social media
	point of view.		and defend or challenge thoserestrictions and/or
		Compare yourself to a character in a book or	safety measures.
	People often say, "Don't judge a book by its	movie. Based on the comparisons and contrasts,	
	cover." In a well-written narrative essay,	explain what you have learned about yourself.	Identify a social or political issue from literature you
	demonstrate the truth in this saying.		have read. Then develop an essay that challenges or
		Society dictates different meanings for	defends the main position that the literature
		"success." Select two characters from literature	advocates.
		or film who struggle to succeed. Compare and	
		contrast their experiences and determine who is	Text-based assessment: Read the following sources
		more successful by society's standards.	and then synthesize <u>three</u> of the sources into a
			well-developed essay that develops a position on

			the <u>effects of advertising</u> . Ensure that you develop a clear position for your essay. Use the sources to develop your position. Avoid summarizing the sources. Provide citations for the sources that you use. (Document link will be provided.)
11 th	Recollection Essay	Cause/Effect Essay	Problem/Solution Paper
	 The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure and what you learned from this experience. Many stories are told of people who demonstrate courage by facing their fears. From your own or the experiences of others, recount an experience that demonstrates courage. Recall a significant event in history or in your own life that has impacted America or you. Recount the event and its impact in a narrative essay. 	Consider a significant choice you have made in your life and the subsequent impact that choice had. In a well-developed essay, explore what caused you to make this choice and the effects of your decisions. Choose a character from history, literature, or film and discuss how his/her decisions result in his/her destruction or redemption.	Identify an issue in U.S. history or a current problem in America. Explore the problem in detail, provide and defend a solution. <i>Text-based assessment: Read the following sources</i> <i>and then synthesize <u>three</u> of the sources into a well-developed essay that evaluates the most important factors a school should consider before <u>implementing technology</u> into curriculum and instruction. Ensure that you develop a clear position for your essay. Use the sources to develop your position. Avoid summarizing the sources. Provide citations for the sources that you use. (Document link will be provided.)</i>
12 th	Reflection Essay	Definition Essay	Literary Analysis
	Think about a time in your life when you have experienced injustice. Retell the experience and the impact it had on you. Many stories, novels, plays, or movies deal with injustices. Identify an injustice in a work you have read. Weave the story of a fictional injustice with one you have personally experienced.	NOTE: The following prompt may also be used for practice writing provided that students choose to define a <i>different</i> term for their CQA. Drawing upon your observations, experiences, and readings, write an extended definition on one of the following: excellence, happiness, persistence, vision, determination, success, failure, weakness, apathy, or boredom.	One of the strongest human drives seems to be a desire for power. Write an essay in which you discuss how a character in a novel, drama, or film struggles to free himself or herself from the power of others or seeks to gain power over others. Be sure to demonstrate in your essay how the author uses this power struggle to enhance the meaning of the work.
	Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, which marked your transition from childhood to maturity within your culture, community, or family.		Text-based assessment: Reference <u>three</u> of six documents about the value of college: Read the following sources and then synthesize <u>three</u> of the sources into a well-developed essay that evaluates whether <u>college is worth its cost</u> . Ensure that you develop a clear position for your essay. Use the sources to develop your position. Avoid summarizing the sources. Provide citations for the sources that you use. (Document link will be

provided.)

NOTE: We are not required to enter a 4th CQA for research papers since they often incorporate many of the above characteristics into one writing; however, teachers should devise fourth quarter research writing assignments.