

January 7, 2009

English Essay Topics: Grades 10, 11 and 12

Write a six+ paragraph persuasive essay (600+ words) in response to one or more of the following prompts:

What role should religious or spiritual faith play in the classroom?

How do death, grief and/or loss serve us as a people – either personally or politically?

Is it true that people get along better when they share a common enemy or work toward a common purpose?

How should or will the fight over land in Israel/Palestine ever be resolved?

What is your personal role/job/obligation in your family, and should that change?

What role do the arts (music, dance, theater, film, photography, painting, sculpture, fashion, etc.) play in the development of a person?

If you were a principal, and you were told by both the superintendent and the school board that you could offer only three subjects at your school, which three subjects would you choose to offer and why?

Karl Marx, a famous Socialist, said that people should *receive* and *give* “to each according to his needs and from each according to his abilities.” Is this possible/ likely/worth striving for as a society? In your argument, use examples from both life and a classroom.

Adam Smith, a famous Capitalist, said that humans are inherently competitive and that we should therefore create an economy based on a free-market whereby people buy and sell goods according to what is available and what is in demand. We should pay more heed to what people desire and are willing to work and pay for than to what they are able to do and what they simply need. Do you agree? In your argument, use some examples from both life and a classroom.

When you write your essay, be sure to back up your statements with both research (as much as you can on an in-class essay) and detailed personal experience.

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