

WST ESSAY TOPICS: PRACTICE PROMPTS

1. Some people believe that politicians or celebrities have a right to keep their personal lives private, while other people believe that the public has a right to know about the private lives of these people. Should the media cover the private lives of public people? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.
2. Some people believe that watching television is a worthless or meaningless activity, while others view it as a valuable way to relax or gather information. Is watching TV a valuable activity? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.
3. Some people believe that television news gives a wide audience access to information that would have been impossible a hundred years ago. Others, however, believe that TV news provides shallow and biased news coverage. Does the television news give fair and in-depth coverage to important issues of the day? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.
4. Some high school teachers think that assigning their students low grades will prevent them from being accepted into college and consequently assign many A's and B's. In contrast, other teachers think it is important to recognize a broad range of individual differences in academic performance and assign grades according to what is actually earned. Should teachers assign mostly high grades to students whether or not they earned them with their academic work? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.
5. Some people argue that technology and modern conveniences have improved our quality of life, while others argue that they have had a negative impact on quality of life. Do you think that technology and modern conveniences have a negative or a positive impact on our lives? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.
6. Some people believe that one should always be honest and truthful, while others believe that under certain circumstances it is acceptable to be dishonest or not tell the truth. Is lying ever permissible? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.
7. In the business world some managers encourage individual competition among employees, while others promote collaboration and teamwork. Which do you think is a more effective strategy? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.
8. We see cell/mobile phones almost everywhere, from cars and buses to restaurants and classrooms. Many people argue that cell/mobile phones have become a necessary part of modern life and, as such, should be unrestricted. Others argue, however, that they can be disruptive and thus there should be limitations on their use. Should there be regulations limiting the use of cell/mobile phones? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.

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9. Some people believe that everyone should engage in one or more years of compulsory public service, be it military, educational, environmental, or some other form of service. Other people believe that mandatory service violates individual rights to pursue daily activities. Should everyone be required to perform public service? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.
10. In the past few decades, salaries of entertainers and athletes have risen dramatically. Some people argue that they are entitled to make as much money as they can, while others argue that such salaries have risen to unreasonable levels. Are athletes and entertainers paid too much? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples
11. Some people believe that salary is the most important consideration when choosing a job or a career, while others believe that job satisfaction is the most important issue to consider when making these choices. What do you think should be the main consideration when choosing a job or career path? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.
12. Some people argue that advertising educates consumers and promotes product benefits, while others argue that advertisements can be deceptive and unethical. Should the claims made by advertisements be regulated? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.
13. Some people believe that employers have the right to monitor their employees with video cameras and listening devices and read their employees' electronic mail. Other people believe that such monitoring is a violation of privacy. Should employee privacy be protected in the workplace? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.
14. Some people argue that society should provide free health coverage to all of its members, while others argue that individuals should be financially responsible for their own care and well being. Should the government provide universal health coverage? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.
15. Some people believe that auto insurance companies have the right to charge young male drivers higher insurance rates because they have a higher incidence of getting into accidents and filing claims. Other people believe this to be a form of age and gender discrimination. Should insurance companies be allowed to charge higher rates to young men? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.
16. Many people argue in favor of the death penalty for certain types of murder, while others argue that the death penalty is not justifiable under any circumstances. Is the death penalty an appropriate form of punishment? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.