

## Writing Across the Disciplines: Writing Prompts for Math, Science, and Social Studies

These prompts do not have to be used exactly as stated below. Reword them to fit your curriculum, learning goals, and grade level.

### Math

- Explain how you solved this problem. Describe a second strategy you could use to confirm your answer is correct.
- Write about a time when you used math in the real world.
- Choose a math tool or manipulative we have used in class and explain at least three ways it can be used.
- Analyze this problem and see if you can find the error the student made while solving it. Discuss with your partner how you would correct the error.
- Look at this set of 4 images. Which one does not belong in the set? Defend your answer.
- Do you agree or disagree with this statement: Math is fun. Defend your answer.
- Write a biography about your math life. How did you feel about math when you were young? How have your feelings changed as you got older and learned more? What has been the most challenging thing you have learned? What have you learned that will be useful later in life?
- Write a word problem that uses at least two operations and has the answer of 67.
- Create a picture dictionary to illustrate and define 10 geometric shapes you are familiar with.
- Examine the bar graph shown here. (Include a bar graph with some data and/or labels intentionally missing.) Write what you notice and what you wonder about the graph.

### Science

- Describe in your own words what a scientist looks like, sounds like, acts like, and does.
- Choose one science safety tool and write about how to use it and why it is important.
- What do you predict will happen as we complete this investigation?
- Explain what you observed during the experiment, and why you think this happened.
- Explain the stages of the water cycle / the plant's life cycle / the animal's life cycle, etc.
- Write a mystery item description. Describe the physical and/or chemical properties of an object or substance. Trade descriptions with a partner and guess what their mystery item is!
- Choose a weather event such a tornado, hurricane, or thunderstorm and write a poem about it.
- Write a journal entry from the point of view of an animal that is adapted to survive in its particular environment. Be sure to address the challenges it faces, and how it is able to thrive.
- Write a persuasive letter to convince people to recycle.

- In a small group of 3 or 4 students, write a skit you can perform to teach the rest of your classmates about a topic you recently studied.

### Social Studies

- Which invention do you think had the greatest impact on our society and why?
- Think about the two cultures we have studied. Draw a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the two cultures.
- Write a 30 second commercial encouraging settlers to travel west.
- Choose an important feature of a map or globe and explain its significance.
- Explain how supply and demand effect the price of a good or service.
- Of the 10 amendments in the Bill of Rights, which do you think is most important? Defend your answer.
- Imagine you are one of the first explorers to reach America. Write a letter to your family describing what it's like.
- Imagine you a famous historical figure. Write a "To Do" list from that point of view.
- Create a list of 10 questions you would ask in an interview with former President \_\_\_\_\_.
- Write an obituary for the historical figure you most admire.