



PAWS
Writing
Grade 8
Released Items
With Data

2009



Grade 8
Expository
Expository Essay
Annotated Anchor Set
“Books”
“Invention”



Grade 8

Released Writing Prompts

Books

Books, songs, and movies often hold great meaning to people. Sometimes books, songs, and movies cause an emotional connection; we feel just like one of the characters. Other times books, songs, and movies cause us to think about life in a new way. Write an essay explaining how a book, song, or movie can have an impact on our lives.

Invention

We are fortunate to live in a time when we enjoy the benefits of inventions and discoveries made by people who came before us. Write an essay identifying an invention or a discovery and explain how it helps people in society.

Each paper you will score today was written to one of the two above prompts. The footer on each student response indicates the prompt to which the response was written.

Idea Development

Expository

Expository Essay

The smallpox vaccination is a great discovery because it helps to save lives. In many countries, hundreds of years ago, and now the smallpox virus was, and still is, deadly. Because it turned into an epidemic it took thousands to millions of lives. People had no way to stop it and it destroyed entire villages, cities, and towns. And then finally somebody found a cure, or actually, they found a breakthrough toward a cure/vaccine. It was cowpox, which is a much milder case of smallpox usually found in cows. Those people who had had cowpox could no longer get smallpox. The only

problem was that there were very few ways of transferring cowpox without the cows. They tried knives edged with cowpox pus from wounds, or sores, but it wasn't very safe.

After many years scientists finally figured out how to transfer it safely. Using needles, now they use a very light and mild case of smallpox instead of cowpox. They do this to make it so your body becomes immune to smallpox.

But you can still be harmed by smallpox if you don't get the vaccination shot before

you get the virus. Otherwise
it just won't work.

This is my opinion on
why the smallpox vaccination
is such a great discovery.
I hope you agree with
me when I say that the
vaccine is great because it
saves many lives. And hopefully
scientists will keep making
more breakthroughs with other
deadly viruses. And more progress
with this one so that
someday people who get smallpox
can be cured easily.

Idea
Development

30921008780
Invention

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The writer develops a clear idea in response to the topic (*The smallpox vaccine is a great discovery because it helps to save lives*). Descriptive details enrich idea development (*They tried knives edged with cowpox pus from wounds, or sores, but it wasn't very safe*).

Have you ever had a movie, book, or song that had an impact on your life? Well, I have several times like the movie Forest Gump or the Go to Alice. A movie, book, or song can have an effect on you by making you cherish every breath you take, feel glad you're not making the wrong choices or make you laugh so hard you'll feel great for a week.

To begin with, movies, books, or songs can make you cherish every breath you take. Because you never know when you could die. Perhaps, there was a little girl you was living a normal life until one day she falls sick. She goes to the doctor to find out she has Leukemia. A movie like this can make you very sad.

In addition to, a movie, book, or song can make you feel glad that you're not making the wrong choices in life. For instance, by letting you know people die from drugs or from STD's. They make you proud you're not a dooper, so you won't have to sell everything you own just to get a hit.

Finally, movies, books, and songs can make you laugh so hard you feel great for a week. For example, any Adam Sandler makes me want to watch it over and over just to laugh again. Also, a song by the Chipmunks makes me want to leap in joy to the cuteness of their voices. Not to mention any book on funny animals makes me crack up so hard I nearly wet myself!

In conclusion, movies, books, or songs can make you cherish life, be glad you make

make good choices, and make you laugh
so hard your smiling for a week.

Idea Development	G8F3PM-121 Books	2	The essay contains a three-part thesis (<i>A movie, book or song can have an effect on you by making you cherish every breath you take, feel glad your not making the wrong choses or make you laugh so hard you'll feel great for a week</i>). While the response provides many relevant details that support the thesis (<i>For example, any Adam Sandler makes me want to watch it over and over</i>), some details do not enrich idea development .
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What has a great meaning
 to people are songs because
 it can cause an emotional
 connection to what your
 listening to so you can think about it.
 To begin with, I think people
 can have an impact in
 their lives for listening to
 songs. It depends on what song
 you listen to because some
 songs have an emotional connection.

<p>Idea Development</p>	<p>G8F3PM-181 Books</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The student attempts a thesis (... songs ... cause an emotional connection to what your listening to so you can think about it) and merely repeats it in the second paragraph. There is a limited attempt at development (It depends on what song you listen to).</p>
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Books, songs, and movies can have a big impact on a person's life, but not on all people. Not all people read books, there are people that read books but don't have any meaning to them.

Idea Development	G8F3PM-22 Books	0	The student does not attempt to present a thesis. The single detail given is irrelevant because the meaning is not clear (<i>there are people that read books but don't have any meaning to them</i>).
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Organization

Expository

Expository Essay

I was a dark, stormy night. There was a man out in the rain. He was flying a kite with a key attached to it. Some thought he was crazy, others thought he was a genius. This man was Benjamin Franklin. One thing is for sure, he received a shocking surprise and discovered electricity.

Now, many years later almost everything we use is powered by electricity. From our television to our heat is powered by electricity. Sometimes even our eggbeaters and can openers are powered by electricity. Electricity is an essential part of life for us. We use electricity from early in the morning to late at night.

In the morning, we wake up to an alarm clock of some sort that is powered by electricity. When we drive to school,

The car uses a battery and the stop lights also use electricity. At school, the lights and heaters are usually powered by either electricity or sometimes gas. The microwave ovens in the lunch room are powered by electricity also. Even the computers in the lab are powered by electricity.

Could you imagine a world without electricity? Our food would go bad faster because there would be no power to keep the refrigerator running. We would have to use candles to provide light during the nighttime. For heat we would need a fireplace to keep us warm.

Electricity has cured many problems and has made human survival a lot easier. Electricity has been

an important part of developing our civilization and way of life. One way or another, electricity has helped our society greatly and the technology development of electricity is only going to get more and more advanced.

Organization	32283005610 Invention	3	The writer develops an effective introduction, body, and conclusion. The writer uses topic sentences and varied, effective transitions between and within paragraphs (<i>Now, many years later; From our television to our heat; In the morning; At school; Even the computers in the lab</i>). The writer indicates paragraphs using appropriate indentation consistently and effectively organizes similar ideas. The writer uses varied and correct sentences.
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An invention that helps people in society is the wig. The wig has done many good things for people in societies.

The wig is a great invention. It helps people fit in. If someone had cancer and lost their hair they can wear a wig to fit in. Also old people with no hair can look hip with a sexy wig of any hair style.

The wig helps old people get ladies. All the old people can get younger people if they wear a wig and are very rich.

Without the wig many people would have horrible lives because they wouldn't have any hair. The wig can help older guys relive their glory days with a mullet or a mohawk. Sometimes people with

hair wear wigs so they can have a new hairstyle. Sometimes people wear the anti wig which is the bald cap. The bald cap is a wig you put on to make yourself look bald.

The wig is the greatest invention it helps people look sexy. What would we do without the wig.

Organization	30565008800 Invention	2	The response includes an introduction, body, and conclusion. The writer uses topic sentences and transitions within paragraphs. The writer indicates paragraphs using appropriate indentation and groups some similar ideas together (<i>It helps people fit in. If someone had cancer and lost there hair they can wear a wig to fit in</i>). The writer uses varied and correct sentences.
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What we are fortunate to have is the invention of the refrigerator. Because back in the day they only had boxes with a lid on the top that you would open to put a big chunk of ice inside of it. The inside was lined with metal and it would keep the food cold. At the bottom there would be a drawer that you would pull out and that is where the water from the ice cube would drip. Today we have a mini fridge with a freezer on top or on the bottom and now they are electric so

we don't have to use ice
cubes, so we are fountains
we have the invention of
the fridge or else we would
have so really nasty food

Organization	29591027330 Invention	1	The response presents a limited introduction and conclusion. The response lacks consistent use of topic sentences and has a few transitions (<i>So, Because</i>). There is little evidence of appropriate spacing or indentation.
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Books, songs, or movies can relate to
some people's lives.

Organization	G8F3PM-6 Books	0	This one-sentence response lacks transitions and indications of paragraphing.
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Voice

Expository

Expository Essay

There is an invention that tops all others. It is an important device for the human race since about the 1980s the most common word for this creation is the computer.

Computers have become a part of most Americans' everyday life. Businessmen and/or women tote their notebook computers around in their patent-leather briefcases and cherish them like their offspring. Most computers are also dutiful schedulers, and may/probably do hold their owners' full life in their memory. Without these, Americans would be as lost as a zebra without its stripes!

Not just business leaders are part of the computer age. Students, doctors, house-wives, and teachers, hey, it's pretty much everyone! Even

toddlers are involved in the group. Very many of these children walk around carrying their laptop with them in their backpack. Usually, these minis are themed either 'Barbie' or a very many 'Spiderman'. These tools for learning are preparing toddlers to grow up to be another computer drone, AKA someone who maintains using a computer in their daily schedule without thinking of their true and unique beauty.

Everyday, my friends and I usually go home, connect onto the internet and chat with each other on MSN messenger. While we do this, we also check our emails, and check out the hot new shoes on our favorite website. Some call this shopping and/or teen vain-ness, but we call it multi-tasking! lol! (chat lingo which is also known as laugh out loud.)

Computers today are in a form of communication, information and a dab of fun and games. For the most part, computers are needed everywhere and anywhere, for everyone and anyone.

In conclusion, computers are a vital key to the success and enjoyment in the lives of both Americans and computer users around the world.

Voice	29410028170 Invention	3	The response consistently reveals compelling and engaging voice, style, and tone appropriate to the purpose (<i>tote their patent-leather briefcases and cherish them like their offspring</i>). The writer uses a variety of precise and appropriate words and phrases (<i>preparing toddlers to grow up to be another computer drone, Lol! [Chat lingo which is also known as laugh out loud.], a vital key</i>).
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The way a song can have an impact on our lives. It all depends on four little things that make a big difference. The first little thing is the words that are in the song if there happy like "Take a look at my girlfriend." or if there about love like "We belong together," or sad and hurt with a high whisper saying something like "Consider that your killing me." The second little thing is the beat if your listening to a love song you would expect it to be slow. Music wouldnt be music if the beat was off or didnt go with the song. The third little thing is how they sing it. If they had the most beautiful voice but no soul or hurt in there voice they would only be able to sing dance songs. Well the last but

not least for the little thing is how your feeling if your feeling sad your not gonna want to hear a fast dance song your gonna want to hear something sad because they have a sad voice and you can relate cause your sad. Same for if your happy.

Voice	G8F3PM-65 Books	2	The response reveals voice, style, and tone appropriate to the purpose (<i>they have a sad voice and you can relate</i>). The writer uses precise and appropriate words and phrases (<i>high whisper, most beautiful voice but no soul</i>).
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Books, music, and movies play an important role in my life. On song that has touched me a lot is "Concrete Angel" by Martina McBride. A book that just made me realize there are bad people in the world is "A Child Called It". The movie that is just real about life is "The Outsiders". These movies, books, and music is all very inspirational and about real life.

Voice	G8F3PM-67 Books	1	The response reveals limited voice, style, and tone appropriate to the purpose. The response demonstrates little variation in word choice and phrases (<i>in my life, On song that has touched me, A book that just made me, The movie that is just real about life, about real life</i>).
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The way books, songs, and movies can have an impaction my life is it can make me want to do something. Like helping someone are something but I could be in falesst to herat some one are something. Like some songs can make me mad some songs can com me down. Some movies make me want to fite some don't.

Books nell don't have an impact on my life. But if I read the righth book I ~~gas~~ it could, but they are the impact on my life that books, songs, and movies make.

Voice

G8F3PM-174

Books

0

The response lacks style and voice. The writer uses a limited range of words and phrases (*make me want to do something, helping someone*).

Conventions

Expository

Expository Essay

Comer sat on his bed, scrolling through the lists of music on his iPod. There were thousands of songs on it, but he was looking for just one. Finally, it was before his eyes on the tiny screen. He plugged in his ear phones, turned the volume up loud, and began to cry.

That true story is just one example that someone can relate to a song, book, or movie. Of course, not everyone cries at them, but almost everyone has some kind of reaction to them. For instance, think of the funniest movie you have ever seen. What did you do while you watched it? Did you laugh? Well that is another way someone can react to a movie.

There are millions of books, movies, and songs in the world that people enjoy. However there are also single books, movies, and songs in the world that millions of people enjoy.

Take, for an example, "Harry Potter." The movies and the books have massive amounts of fans all over the world. Why? It's because so many people can relate to Harry Potter or his friends. The same thing goes for any box office smash or best seller. The Lord of the Rings or The Da Vinci Code, maybe you hated it, but you still had a reaction to it.

The reason why so many people can relate to characters or events in movies, books, and songs is because almost everyone in the world likes to hear a good story. People like to hear about other people, to read about them or watch them on the silver screen. Everyone likes to be entertained. Everyone likes to laugh, or cry, ever once in a while. The truth is, songs, books, and movies can have a huge impact on

your life, it just depends on two things'.
The first is what that book, song, or movie is
about. The second, is who you are and what
you can relate to.

Conventions	G8F3PM-82 Books	3	The response consistently reveals grade-appropriate spelling and punctuation (...an example, "Harry Potter."...He plugged in his car phones, turned the volume up loud, and began to cry.... it just depends on two things: The first...). The response also reveals the consistent use of grade-appropriate capitalization (The Lord of the Rings, The DaVinci Code) and grammar and usage.
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The television set is one of the greatest and most beneficial inventions of our time, for many reasons.

Not only does almost every one in the United States have at least one tv, it can be very useful and entertaining.

Throughout this paper you will learn all the things we can benefit from, from having a television set.

Since tv first came out we have used it as an interesting way to learn. With newer channels like Discovery, Animal Planet, History, and much more, we can learn so much, in a fun way.

The average kid of ages 7-14 watches at least three hours of tv a day; at least they are learning. Not only does the tv help with learning it can save lives. The News.

With so much going on in our country like war, terrorist attacks, floods, hurricanes, and much more, the news can save lives. With a tv you can learn about flood warnings or any up

coming attacks, so you can better prepare yourself. This sound like an awesome benefit to me!

Along with helpful news and a learning tool, a tv can be used as entertainment.

You can watch television shows, movies, music videos, westerns, chick flicks, and so much more. The tv is a great source of entertainment of all ages.

As you can see the tv is an invention that has and will continue to benefit our great nation. This invention has taught, saved, and entertained people since it first came out. Making this a very useful and beneficial invention.

Conventions	5534010770 Invention	2	The student uses limited grade-appropriate spelling (leaste, benifit, comeing, prepair, awesome), but demonstrates control of grade-appropriate capitalization, punctuation, and grammar and usage.
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I like the invention of telephones!
Because you can talk to your friend whenever you want even if he's on the other side of the world. You can even talk to some chinese dude without digging a hole to china and back through the center of the earth avoiding the back breaking work.

The phone is one of Alexander graham bells greater inventions and it all started with the tele graph. and it slowly evolved into to the telephone for heavens sakes you don't even have to be next to the person your talking to you can talk to great grandma susanna

comein around the mountain in a train you can even
 talk to your cousin whos on a
 mission over in timbucktu. You can
 also talk to some Korean guy
 named Lou ching about the weather
 in fiji japan while having a nice
 conversation well thanks for reading
 and even taking time to read my paper.

<p>Conventions</p>	<p>32336003720 Invention</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The student demonstrates incorrect use of grade-appropriate capitalization (Like, china, graham bells, great grandma suzanna, timbucktu, fiJi) and punctuation (I like the invention of telephones! Because...; graham bells greater inventions; comein, whos) throughout the response. However, the student uses grade-appropriate spelling and grammar and usage.</p>
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One song that always makes
 me feel bitter would have to be
 Life is a Highway by Rascal
 Flatts. The reason it makes me
 feel bitter is because I can sing
 it, it has a good beat, and the
 guy that sings it is really good.
 But then if you ask me I love
 the whole CD and all the songs.
 But if I had one favorite it
 would definitely have to be Life
 is a Highway. So whenever I'm
 in a bad mood I just go to my
 room and turn on my radio and
 just read or sit and listen to
 my CDs

Conventions	G8F3PM-137 Books	0	The student frequently misspells both simple and grade-appropriate words (feel bitter, hav, hade, rado, lesten) and demonstrates incorrect use of grade-appropriate capitalization and punctuation throughout the response.
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