

## **Beginning Prompts:**

Narrative: "My Hero"

Narrative: "My Favorite Restaurant"

Position: "If I could change the world, I would. . ."

## **Position: Driving Age**

Statistics show that young, inexperienced drivers are more likely to be involved in automobile accidents and are more likely to die in automobile accidents than older, more mature drivers. Because of these grim figures, some states are considering or already have passed legislation that delays the age at which a young person may apply for a driver's license. For example, New Jersey requires teens to be eighteen years old before they qualify to take the state's driver's license test. In a five-paragraph essay, express your opinion about whether or not Texas lawmakers should increase the age from age sixteen to age eighteen at which a teenager should be allowed to drive.

## **The Influence of Violent Media upon Adolescent Behavior**

Representations of graphic violence are ever-present in American culture. Top theatrical releases--like the recent Saw series of horror films--depict ever more shocking physical and psychological violence. The gaming industry has created a whole genre of "First-Person Shooter" games that allow the user to embody the person shooting other characters within the game narrative. Even mainstream television contains graphic representations of murder and mayhem. Many parents complain that graphic representations of violence influence the way children behave. In a five-paragraph essay, convince an audience about your position concerning the impact of representations of graphic violence upon adolescent behavior.

## **Writing a prompt:**

As illustrated above, a successful writing prompt should give ample overview and background to an issue. Though a prompt should be commonplace, it should also provide context and an overview of possible positions/reasons concerning an issue. Once the issue has been presented, the prompt should offer a directive for the student's writing assignment; if the assignment has specific time requirements and resources available (120 minutes; dictionary, scratch paper), these should be listed as well.