

## **GRADE 8 SUMMER PACKET OUTLINE**

- 1) Read **Steve Job's Commencement Speech**
  - a. Complete two Short Answer Response
- 2) Read the story **Malala's Journey From Near Death To Recovery**
  - a. Complete two Short Answer Response
- 3) Complete Extended Response using the two articles above
- 4) Read the Novel **The Tequila Worm** by Viola Canales
  - a. Complete two Short Answer Response
  - b. Complete Novel Assignment
- 5) Read the Poem **As I Grew Older by Langston Hughes**
  - a. Complete two Short Answer Response
  - b. Complete ten Short Answer Response on loose leaf
- 6) Complete the following worksheets:
  - a. Figurative Language
  - b. Fiction Elements
  - c. Character
  - d. Setting
  - e. Author's Purpose
- 7) Complete front and back worksheet "Perfect Verb Tenses" and "Irregular Verbs"
- 8) Read the article "**10 Reasons Why College is Important**" and complete formal essay. Read Instructions attached.
- 9) Write an Argumentative Essay using Steve Job's Speech- State a Claim. Use the argumentative map to help you create a formal essay structure. Read Instructions attached.

Stanford Report, June 14, 2005

## 'You've got to find what you love,' Jobs says

*This is a prepared text of the Commencement address delivered by Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple Computer and of Pixar Animation Studios, on June 12, 2005.*

I am honored to be with you today at your commencement from one of the finest universities in the world. I never graduated from college. Truth be told, this is the closest I've ever gotten to a college graduation. Today I want to tell you three stories from my life. That's it. No big deal. Just three stories.

The first story is about connecting the dots.

I dropped out of Reed College after the first 6 months, but then stayed around as a drop-in for another 18 months or so before I really quit. So why did I drop out?

It started before I was born. My biological mother was a young, unwed college graduate student, and she decided to put me up for adoption. She felt very strongly that I should be adopted by college graduates, so everything was all set for me to be adopted at birth by a lawyer and his wife. Except that when I popped out they decided at the last minute that they really wanted a girl. So my parents, who were on a waiting list, got a call in the middle of the night asking: "We have an unexpected baby boy; do you want him?" They said: "Of course." My biological mother later found out that my mother had never graduated from college and that my father had never graduated from high school. She refused to sign the final adoption papers. She only relented a few months later when my parents promised that I would someday go to college.

And 17 years later I did go to college. But I naively chose a college that was almost as expensive as Stanford, and all of my working-class parents' savings were being spent on my college tuition. After six months, I couldn't see the value in it. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life and no idea how college was going to help me figure it out. And here I was spending all of the money my parents had saved their entire life. So I decided to drop out and trust that it would all work out OK. It was pretty scary at the time, but looking back it was one of the best decisions I ever made. The minute I dropped out I could stop taking the required classes that didn't interest me, and begin dropping in on the ones that looked interesting.

It wasn't all romantic. I didn't have a dorm room, so I slept on the floor in friends' rooms, I returned coke bottles for the 5¢ deposits to buy food with, and I would walk the 7 miles across town every Sunday night to get one good meal a week at the Hare Krishna temple. I loved it. And much of what I stumbled into by following my curiosity and intuition turned out to be priceless later on. Let me give you one example:

Reed College at that time offered perhaps the best calligraphy instruction in the country. Throughout the campus every poster, every label on every drawer, was beautifully hand calligraphed. Because I had dropped out and didn't have to take the normal classes, I decided to take a calligraphy class to learn how to do this. I learned about serif and san serif typefaces, about varying the amount of space between different letter combinations, about what makes great typography great. It was beautiful, historical, artistically subtle in a way that science can't capture, and I found it fascinating.

None of this had even a hope of any practical application in my life. But ten years later, when we were designing the first Macintosh computer, it all came back to me. And we designed it all into the Mac. It was the first computer with beautiful typography. If I had never dropped in on that single course in college, the Mac would have never had multiple typefaces or proportionally spaced fonts. And since Windows just copied the Mac, it's likely that no personal computer would have them. If I had never dropped out, I would have never dropped in on this calligraphy class, and personal computers might not have the wonderful typography that they do. Of course it was impossible to connect the dots looking forward when I was in college. But it was very, very clear looking backwards ten years later.

Again, you can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something — your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life.

My second story is about love and loss.

I was lucky — I found what I loved to do early in life. Woz and I started Apple in my parents garage when I was 20. We worked hard, and in 10 years Apple had grown from just the two of us in a garage into a \$2 billion company with over 4000 employees. We had just released our finest creation — the Macintosh — a year earlier, and I had just turned 30. And then I got fired. How can you get fired from a company you started? Well, as Apple grew we hired someone who I thought was very talented to run the company with me, and for the first year or so things went well. But then our visions of the future began to diverge and eventually we had a falling out. When we did, our Board of Directors sided with him. So at 30 I was out. And very publicly out. What had been the focus of my entire adult life was gone, and it was devastating.

I really didn't know what to do for a few months. I felt that I had let the previous generation of entrepreneurs down - that I had dropped the baton as it was being passed to me. I met with David Packard and Bob Noyce and tried to apologize for screwing up so badly. I was a very public failure, and I even thought about running away from the valley. But something slowly began to dawn on me — I still loved what I did. The turn of events at Apple had not changed that one bit. I had been rejected, but I was still in love. And so I decided to start over.

I didn't see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the

lightness of being a beginner again, less sure about everything. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life.

During the next five years, I started a company named NeXT, another company named Pixar, and fell in love with an amazing woman who would become my wife. Pixar went on to create the world's first computer animated feature film, *Toy Story*, and is now the most successful animation studio in the world. In a remarkable turn of events, Apple bought NeXT, I returned to Apple, and the technology we developed at NeXT is at the heart of Apple's current renaissance. And Laurene and I have a wonderful family together.

I'm pretty sure none of this would have happened if I hadn't been fired from Apple. It was awful tasting medicine, but I guess the patient needed it. Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith. I'm convinced that the only thing that kept me going was that I loved what I did. You've got to find what you love. And that is as true for your work as it is for your lovers. Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it. And, like any great relationship, it just gets better and better as the years roll on. So keep looking until you find it. Don't settle.

My third story is about death.

When I was 17, I read a quote that went something like: "If you live each day as if it was your last, someday you'll most certainly be right." It made an impression on me, and since then, for the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: "If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?" And whenever the answer has been "No" for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something.

Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything — all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure — these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart.

About a year ago I was diagnosed with cancer. I had a scan at 7:30 in the morning, and it clearly showed a tumor on my pancreas. I didn't even know what a pancreas was. The doctors told me this was almost certainly a type of cancer that is incurable, and that I should expect to live no longer than three to six months. My doctor advised me to go home and get my affairs in order, which is doctor's code for prepare to die. It means to try to tell your kids everything you thought you'd have the next 10 years to tell them in just a few months. It means to make sure everything is buttoned up so that it will be as easy as possible for your family. It means to say your goodbyes.

I lived with that diagnosis all day. Later that evening I had a biopsy, where they stuck an endoscope down my throat, through my stomach and into my intestines, put a needle into my pancreas and got a few cells from the tumor. I was sedated, but my wife, who was there, told me that when they viewed the cells under a microscope the doctors started crying because it turned out to be a very rare form of pancreatic cancer that is curable with surgery. I had the surgery and I'm fine now.

This was the closest I've been to facing death, and I hope it's the closest I get for a few more decades. Having lived through it, I can now say this to you with a bit more certainty than when death was a useful but purely intellectual concept:

No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there. And yet death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it. And that is as it should be, because Death is very likely the single best invention of Life. It is Life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new. Right now the new is you, but someday not too long from now, you will gradually become the old and be cleared away. Sorry to be so dramatic, but it is quite true.

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma — which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.

When I was young, there was an amazing publication called *The Whole Earth Catalog*, which was one of the bibles of my generation. It was created by a fellow named Stewart Brand not far from here in Menlo Park, and he brought it to life with his poetic touch. This was in the late 1960's, before personal computers and desktop publishing, so it was all made with typewriters, scissors, and polaroid cameras. It was sort of like Google in paperback form, 35 years before Google came along: it was idealistic, and overflowing with neat tools and great notions.

Stewart and his team put out several issues of *The Whole Earth Catalog*, and then when it had run its course, they put out a final issue. It was the mid-1970s, and I was your age. On the back cover of their final issue was a photograph of an early morning country road, the kind you might find yourself hitchhiking on if you were so adventurous. Beneath it were the words: "Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish." It was their farewell message as they signed off. Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish. And I have always wished that for myself. And now, as you graduate to begin anew, I wish that for you.

Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish.

Thank you all very much.

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## Malala's journey from near death to recovery

By Ben Brumfield , CNN

updated 3:09 PM EST, Wed January 30, 2013

CNN.com

(CNN) -- It began with a ride home from school on Tuesday, October 9.

Gunmen halted the van ferrying Malala Yousafzai through her native Swat Valley, one of the most conservative regions in Pakistan. They demanded that other girls in the vehicle identify her. Malala had faced frequent death threats in the past.

Some of the girls pointed her out. At least one gunman opened fire, wounding three girls. Two suffered non-life-threatening injuries, but bullets struck Malala in the head and neck.

The bus driver hit the gas. The assailants got away.

Malala was left in critical condition. An uncle described her as having excruciating pain and being unable to stop moving her arms and legs.



*The schoolgirl who took on the Taliban*

Doctors fought to save her life, then her condition took a dip. They operated to remove a bullet from her neck. After surgery, she was unresponsive for three days.

Photos: Malala on the road to recovery

Now, it is nothing short of a miracle that the teen blogger, who fights for the right of girls to get an education, is still alive and even more astounding that she suffered no major brain or nerve damage.

In hardly more than four weeks, she went from an intensive care unit in Pakistan, showing no signs of consciousness, to walking, writing, reading -- and smiling -- again in a hospital in the United Kingdom.

Less than three months after being gunned down, she was discharged from the hospital to continue her rehabilitation at her family's temporary home. Her father is now employed at the Pakistani Consulate in Great Britain.

On Wednesday, doctors announced that she is expected to undergo groundbreaking surgery in Birmingham, England to repair her skull.

And beyond her hospital room, a world sympathetic with her ordeal has transformed her into a global symbol for the fight to allow girls everywhere access to an education.

The United Nations even declared November 10, Malala Day as a day of action to focus on "Malala and the 32 million girls like Malala not at school."

Ex-UK PM Brown supports Malala's call for girls' education in Pakistan



## The Pakistani Taliban shot Malala

Malala has encouraged girls and their families to resist the Pakistani Taliban, which pushed girls from classrooms, since she was 11.

In January 2009, the militants issued an edict ordering that no school should educate girls. Malala wrote in her online diary about intimidation tactics the Taliban used in the Swat Valley in northwest Pakistan to coerce girls into not going school.

They included house raids to search for books, and Malala had to hide hers under her bed.

The extremists took issue with her writings and threatened to kill her.

"I was scared of being beheaded by the Taliban because of my passion for education," she told CNN last year.

Right after her shooting, her family kept a low profile, for fear they could be next. The militants vowed that if Malala survived, they'd go after her again.

"We will certainly kill her," a spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban said.

Read about the Pakistani Taliban and the faction that went after Malala

## Global outpouring of support

The bloodletting sparked outrage inside Pakistan against the radical Islamist group, which continues to wield influence in parts of the country. Around the world, the young blogger has become a poster child for a widespread need to permit girls to get an education.

Initially, supporters in Pakistan gathered for small vigils to pray for Malala's recovery. Government officials in Peshawar, the main city in the northwestern region where Malala is from, observed a minute of silence in her honor.

Public support snowballed, and thousands of people in Pakistan and elsewhere attended rallies honoring her courage.

Protesters in Karachi carried posters and banners reading: "Malala, our prayers are with you" and "Shame on you, Taliban."

The airwaves filled with leaders and commentators who publicly got behind her, and journalists closely followed her story, drawing death threats from the Taliban for their coverage.

Army Chief Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani took a stand from Malala's hospital, declaring: "We refuse to bow before terror."

Pakistan's first female foreign minister, Hina Rabbani Khar, decried the attempted assassination as "a wake-up call (to) a clear and present danger."

Interior Minister Rehman Malik dubbed Malala "the pride of Pakistan" and announced that her local

school would be renamed for her, changing from "Khushal Public School" to "Malala Public High School."

Authorities in Swat renamed a college after her. Malala later requested that schools not be named for her, to prevent them from becoming prominent targets for the Pakistani Taliban.

The United Nations launched a campaign for girls' education named "I am Malala." Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the attack and praised Malala's cause.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton commended the blogger's bravery; Actress Angelina Jolie donated \$50,000 to a charity in Malala's name. And singer Madonna shouted her name from a stage, dedicating a song to her.

Malik proclaimed that the two other girls injured in the attack on Malala -- Kainat Riaz Ahmed and Shazia Ramzan -- will be honored with the third-highest military award, the Star of Courage. It is not normally given to civilians.

Pakistan to honor girls injured in Malala attack

Gordon Brown and Malala galvanize action

"Pakistan has a new heroine and a new cause -- a girl's right to education," former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown wrote in an opinion piece published by CNN.

Brown, who heads up the "I am Malala" campaign in his role as United Nations special envoy on global education, toured Pakistan to boost education with international funding and local initiatives. It was his office that declared Malala Day.

After her shooting, Brown visited schools, including hers. He talked education for three days with Pakistan's president, Cabinet ministers, educational nongovernmental organizations, donors and a covey of U.N. charities.

iReport: Girls + Education

Malala's path from near mortal wound to recovery

In addition to removing the bullet, doctors extracted a piece of skull to relieve pressure on Malala's brain because of swelling. Malala was taken by helicopter from one military hospital in Pakistan to another, where doctors placed her in a medically induced coma, so an air ambulance could fly her to Great Britain for treatment.

"She is lucky to be alive," Dr. Dave Rosser, the medical director of University Hospitals in Birmingham, UK, told reporters after her arrival.

Then came the light at the end of the tunnel. Examinations revealed that Malala suffered no major neurological damage.

More than a week after being shot a world away, Malala got back on her feet again, able to stand when leaning on a nurse's arm at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Eager to communicate, she

wrote sentences on paper -- she couldn't talk at first because of a tracheotomy.

"Malala is a strong young woman and has worked hard with the people caring for her to make excellent progress in her recovery," Rosser said on her release.

She has returned to her family and continues therapies as an outpatient at the hospital where she will undergo further surgery on her skull.

Chasing the perpetrators

Malik, the Pakistani interior minister, quickly placed a \$1 million bounty on the head of Pakistani Taliban spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan, after he claimed responsibility for Malala's attack on behalf of the group.

Police immediately took the van driver and the school guard into custody for questioning and rounded up dozens in the course of the investigation.

Arrests made in shooting of Pakistani schoolgirl Malala

They have identified the shooters as two boys, but their main suspect is an adult, who the police say drove the youths to the scene -- Atta Ullah Khan, 23. All three were at large.

In an interview with CNN, Khan's sister apologized to Malala for his alleged involvement.

"What he did was intolerable," Rehana Haleem said. "I don't consider Atta Ullah my brother anymore."

She called Malala her sister.

What's next for Malala?

After regaining strength, Malala is now set to endure more surgery. Doctors at Queen Elizabeth hospital will replace the piece of skull extracted in Pakistan. Her lead doctor, Dr. Rosser, "does not envisage any difficulties" in a pair of operations to repair her skull or fix the hearing in her left ear, he said Wednesday.

Malala is no stranger to recognition, and her ordeal has boosted it to global proportions.

Pakistan's Malala: Global symbol, but still just a kid

She has penned her online diary in cooperation with the BBC in the past, and has spoken to other media, including CNN. At home, her writings led to her being awarded Pakistan's first National Peace Prize in late 2011.

From her hospital room in the UK, Malala asked early on for her school books, so she could study for exams she wants to take when she arrives back home in Pakistan.

She is all about education.

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## **Extended Response**

**Construct an essay using Steve Job's Commencement Speech to Stanford in 2005 and Malala's Journey From Near Death To Recovery.**

**Steve Jobs and Malala both faced many obstacles in trying to achieve their goals.**

- Identify the obstacles they faced and explain how they were able to overcome these obstacles.
- Cite textual evidence from both articles.
- Be sure to include an introduction and conclusion
- Be sure to use proper grammar, spelling and punctuation.

# NOVEL

Read The Tequila Worm by Viola Canales

Short Answer Response:

1. How did Sofia follow her dream? Explain your answer and use textual evidence from the novel that will support your response.

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2. If you were given the opportunity to attend a boarding school far away from your family to pursue your dreams, would you go? Why or why not?

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# Novel Assignment

After reading your book, respond to **all five** topics (character, conflict, quotation, reaction, association). Each response should use appropriate writing style (correct spelling, grammar, punctuation) and be at least five sentences long. See additional guidelines and examples below.

**1. Character-** Identify the major characters and explain how they communicate the meaning of the book. You might include:

- **descriptions of major characters;**
- **an explanation of the relationships among the characters;**
- **the ways in which the author connects readers to characters.**

**2. Conflict-** Identify and explain major conflicts in the book. You might include:

- **the problems, challenges, questions or dilemmas the characters face;**
- **the morals, values and judgments that make a character's decision-making difficult.**

**3. Quotation** – Select and write about an important quote. To explain the quote's importance, you might include information about:

- **who is speaking to whom;**
- **what the quote refers to in the story;**
- **how the quote is connected to the "big" meaning for the book. In other words, tell why the quote is "important."**

**4. Reaction** – Describe your reaction to the book. A reaction might include:

- **what thoughts or feelings you had about the book when you first started reading it;**
- **whether or not the book grabbed your attention right away or was "hard to get into;"**
- **how your thoughts changed as you read the book;**
- **whether you felt as though you never wanted to the book to end or whether it seemed to do on and on;**
- **which ways, if any, the book made you think about life in a new way.**

**5. Association** – Describe the ways in which the book can be connected to the thoughts or experiences of others. Details might include:

- **ways in which the book reminds you of other people, places or events;**
- **similarities to other books you've read;**
- **connections you make the book and a movie.**

# POEM

## As I Grew Older by Langston Hughes

It was a long time ago.  
I have almost forgotten my dream.  
But it was there then,  
In front of me,  
Bright like a sun—  
My dream.  
And then the wall rose,  
Rose slowly,  
Slowly,  
Between me and my dream.  
Rose until it touched the sky—  
The wall.  
Shadow.  
I am black.  
I lie down in the shadow.  
No longer the light of my dream before me,  
Above me.  
Only the thick wall.  
Only the shadow.  
My hands!  
My dark hands!  
Break through the wall!  
Find my dream!  
Help me to shatter this darkness,  
To smash this night,  
To break this shadow  
Into a thousand lights of sun,  
Into a thousand whirling dreams  
Of sun!







**"As I Grew Older"**  
**by Langston Hughes**

Complete the following questions on loose leaf and use textual evidence from the poem to support your response.

1. What is the theme of the poem?
2. How would you describe the author's tone of voice?
3. Does the tone change from the beginning of the poem compared to the end of the poem?
4. What is the speaker's attitude toward his subject?
5. What does the "Sun" represent in the poem?
6. What does the "Wall" represent in the poem?
7. What message is the author want the reader to know?
8. What happened to the authors' "Dreams"?
9. What are some obstacles the author experience?
10. What can you infer about the author based on reading this poem?

## AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

READ EACH OF THE FOLLOWING WRITINGS AND DECIDE WHETHER THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE IS TO:

- **persuade**
- **inform**
- **entertain**

1. It was a glorious morning in Alabama. The sun was shining through the trees. Alan couldn't wait to find his fishing pole and call his friend Sam to go fishing. They had a great time on these early morning fishing trips. They took their dogs with them and the dogs would swim in the lake while they fished. It was so funny to watch those dogs paddle around the lake.

What is the author's purpose of this writing? \_\_\_\_\_

2. The Slim-O-Matic will cause you to loose pounds and inches from your body in one month. This amazing machine helps you to exercise correctly and provides an easy video to show you the proper way to exercise. Send \$75.99 and begin exercising today.

What is the author's purpose of this writing? \_\_\_\_\_

3. The Underground Railroad was a secret organization which helped slaves escape to freedom. Many slaves were able to escape because of the conductors and station masters. The northern states were free states and slaves were free once they arrived in the north. Secret codes and signals were used to identify the conductors and station masters.

What is the author's purpose of this writing? \_\_\_\_\_

1. Judy Glen's amazing Wrinkle Remover cream will make you look younger in thirty days or less. This remarkable cream has special ingredients to make your wrinkles disappear. The cost for a thirty day supply is \$ 25.99. Send your check to P.O.Box 00002, Shelton, CA 74836

What is the author's purpose of this writing? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Thomas was not happy one little bit. His sister, Susan was making honor roll again. His parents would allow her to do anything she wanted to do. Thomas was not making honor roll this time and he was not going to be allowed to do all the things he wanted to do. Poor Thomas! He would just have to study harder and get back on the honor roll.

What is the author's purpose of this writing? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Laura Elizabeth Ingalls Wilder was born on February 7, 1867 in Pepin, Wisconsin to Charles and Caroline Ingalls. She met and married Almanzo James Wilder in 1885. She published many books based on her travels to the west. Her writing became the basis for the " Little House" series She died in 1957.

What is the author's purpose of this writing? \_\_\_\_\_

1. HAMSTERS FOR SALE: Braxton Pet Store, Northwood Mall: We have a large selection of hamsters for sale this week. They are interesting pets and you will enjoy having one. They are only \$ 17.99 this week. Come and buy yours today!

What is the author's purpose of this writing? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Calligraphy is a form of handwriting . A special pen must be used. Letters are formed using up and down strokes. Old documents are usually written in this form. Diplomas , certificates and other awards are written in calligraphy. It is an interesting form of handwriting.

What is the author's purpose of this writing? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Katina and her brother, Jess were playing with the water hose outside one day. Jess was hiding from Katina so she wouldn't squirt him with the water. The back door opened and Katina pointed the water hose toward the door. It was Mom and she was dripping wet!

What is the author's purpose of this writing? \_\_\_\_\_

. Rosie had the best time making her valentine cards for her classmates. She used red and white paper, heart stickers, markers and anything else she could find. It was great. Her friends are planning a valentine party on Feb. 14th at school. The one she made for her best friend is funny. Funny valentines are nice to get.

The author's purpose of this writing is to \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think this? \_\_\_\_\_

2. The easy Chopper 3 will chop your vegetables for you in about 30 seconds. It is easy to use and you can use any vegetable. The cost is \$ 29.95. Order yours today!

The author's purpose of this writing is to \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think this? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Abraham Lincoln's birthday is on Feb. 12th. He was a great President of the United States. He was our 16th President. He is remembered for freeing the slaves.

The author's purpose of this writing is to \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think this? \_\_\_\_\_

## Figurative Language

Decide whether each sentence contains a **simile or a metaphor**. Write the word SIMILE if the sentence contains a simile. Write the word METAPHOR if the sentence contains a metaphor.

1. The baby was like an octopus, grabbing at all the cans on the grocery store shelves.
2. As the teacher entered the room she muttered under her breath, "This class is like a three-ring circus!"
3. The giant's steps were thunder as he ran toward Jack.
4. The pillow was a cloud when I put my head upon it after a long day.
5. I feel like a limp dishrag.
6. Those girls are like two peas in a pod.
7. The fluorescent light was the sun during our test.
8. No one invites Harold to parties because he's a wet blanket.
9. The bar of soap was a slippery eel during the dog's bath.
10. Ted was as nervous as a cat with a long tail in a room full of rocking chairs.

## Personification

*Directions: Underline the idea, object, animal being personified and circle what they're doing that makes it an example of personification.*

1. The sun danced across the sky on the hot summer day.
2. The big full moon guided me through the forest.
3. The mountain listened to the rumbles beneath its surface.
4. As the rain pounded to the ground, everyone ran for cover.
5. The old man sat at the edge of the sea as the waves crashed on the shore.
6. The old car groaned as it made its way down the long open road.
7. The wind whispered lonely sounds as it blew through the old creaky windows.
8. The leaves raced to the ground as the children ran across the playground.
9. The pencil moaned as the boy turned the handle on the pencil sharpener.
10. The tornado pranced across the field and wiped away everything in its path.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Identifying Figurative Language – Worksheet

Part I: Describe the different types of Figurative Language below.

1. Simile: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Metaphor: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Hyperbole: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Personification: \_\_\_\_\_

Part II: Carefully read the lines of poetry below. Note that the slashes (/) represent line breaks. Determine which technique is being used: simile, metaphor, hyperbole or personification. Then, explain your answer. It may be possible for more than one technique to be used.

1. The children surrounded her like / the roots of a tree. What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

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2. When the swarm of bees buzzed overhead / The sky turned dark as night. What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

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3. The clouds were low and hairy in the skies. What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

4. If you were only one inch tall, you'd ride a worm to school. / The teardrop of a crying ant would be your swimming pool. What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

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5. The tabloids screamed insults at celebrities What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

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6. And the stars shall not look down / From their high thrones in the Heaven, What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

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7. Now, Banjo, I know mamma wants me, / And so I must bid you good-bye! What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

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8. Dandruff left a thick layer / like freshly fallen snow on his shoulders. What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

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9. Abandoned warehouses and rundown apartments were the skeletons of the old city What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

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## Irregular Verbs

**Write the past simple form of each verb.**

do - \_\_\_\_\_  
buy - \_\_\_\_\_  
come - \_\_\_\_\_  
hear - \_\_\_\_\_  
feed - \_\_\_\_\_  
hurt - \_\_\_\_\_  
forget - \_\_\_\_\_  
write - \_\_\_\_\_  
think - \_\_\_\_\_  
speak - \_\_\_\_\_

**Write the past participle form of each verb.**

begin - \_\_\_\_\_  
find - \_\_\_\_\_  
tell - \_\_\_\_\_  
steal - \_\_\_\_\_  
swear - \_\_\_\_\_  
mistake - \_\_\_\_\_  
let - \_\_\_\_\_  
keep - \_\_\_\_\_  
freeze - \_\_\_\_\_  
do - \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete the chart.**

- Base - Simple Past - Past Participle
- Teach - Taught - Taught
- Shoot - \_\_\_\_\_ - Shot
- Quit - Quit - \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ - Ran - \_\_\_\_\_
- Fight - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - Had
- Win - \_\_\_\_\_ - Won
- Take - Took - \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ - Shook - Shaken
- Drive - Drove - \_\_\_\_\_
- Bring - \_\_\_\_\_ - Brought

**Fill in the blanks with the past simple form of the verb in parentheses.**

A mosquito \_\_\_\_\_ (bite) me!

Grandpa \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) eight fish on our fishing trip.

When Whitney stepped in the gum, her flip-flop \_\_\_\_\_ (stick) to it.

They \_\_\_\_\_ (wake) up at 4:30 a.m. to catch their 7:00 flight.

We \_\_\_\_\_ (fly) from New York to Atlanta for the conference last month.

My stomach \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) strange for hours after I ate that old bread.

Stephanie \_\_\_\_\_ (give) her sister a CD for her birthday.

## Hard Irregular Verb Activities

You can make any of the easy or medium activities into hard ones by taking away the word bank, taking away the students' irregular verb lists/charts and dictionaries, and mixing in some regular verbs as well.

If you're teaching your students to differentiate between past simple and present perfect, an activity like this one is also very challenging:

**Fill in the blanks with the verb in parentheses in either past simple or present perfect.**

I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) three movies this week.

Rob \_\_\_\_\_ (crash) his car last year.

We \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in California for five years before we \_\_\_\_\_ (move) to Oregon in 1999.

The Titanic \_\_\_\_\_ (sink) in 1912.

Eden \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) off her bike 3 times this month.

\_\_\_\_\_ you ever \_\_\_\_\_ (have) the chicken pox?

I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/drink) any coffee yet today.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/drink) any coffee yesterday either.

We \_\_\_\_\_ (not/go) to Grandma's house at all this year.

Read the article, "10 Reasons Why College is Important". Write a 3-5 paragraph summary of the text by determining the central idea and identifying relevant textual details. Write a formal essay with an introduction, body and conclusion and use transitional words and phrases.

You must include:

- Step 1* Highlight the most important points in the reading.
- Step 2* Make a brief outline of the most important points.
- Step 3* Mention the author, the specific genre, and the title of the reading in your first sentence.
- Step 4* State the topic of the reading and the thesis/main idea at the beginning of your summary.
- Step 5* Include only the most important points and supporting details.
- Step 6* Paraphrase the author's ideas rather than copy sentences. Include some of the key content terms used in the reading.
- Step 7* Don't include your personal opinions or experiences.
- Step 8* Present the ideas in the order in which they were discussed in the reading selection.
- Step 9* Introduce the author's key points with citation verbs and expressions (e.g., *the author points out, according to*).
- Step 10* Use transitional expressions to make connections between ideas.

# 10 Reasons Why College is Important



Charli, Yahoo! Contributor Network

Sep 19, 2008

Just like how precalculus is a prerequisite to calculus, so is a college degree to a job. Many people don't really believe that a college degree is necessary to become successful in the world, and that anyone who is truly talented and knows what he wants to do can achieve anything. To be honest, there is nothing wrong in this way of thinking, however, a college degree is something that will act as a pillar to keep people standing. Since ups and downs in the corporate world are unavoidable, there will be times when people will need a back up to get through troubled times. Also, it makes life much easier just to have a college degree. All that being said, a college degree has its good points and reasons why it's very important for success.

1. Experience - Experience itself is good enough for a person to go to college since it plays a big part in the transformation process of a teenager turning into an adult. It is during this time students learn how serious and difficult life can be and how it is important to grow up. Also, experiencing the college life itself is great. The independence, friends, parties, classes, football games, night life, social scene, all of it is something that can be considered a once in a life time experience. It is the starting point of an adult life it is also the most precious time of a youngster. Of course, getting a college degree is very important but college experience itself brings change to students for better or worse.
2. Jobs - Most of the employers of the corporate world are looking for students with a college degree since employers are looking for students who have the ability to learn new things which is a necessity in order to work in the corporate world. The degree reassures the employers that a student with a degree can be employed since if he/she completed a degree, that means that he/she can cope with the work environment, and also has the ability to adapt to constant change. A degree is said to be more important than the degree type as such, so as long as one has the skill to learn, then they will have a more likely chance of getting employed.
3. Skills - College helps students prepare for major/industry related skills. For example, a computer science student is trained in the field of computers so that when he gets his degree, he is adept in using computers, which will help in getting a job in the field of computer sciences. Thus, college helps in achieving skills related to the industry one looks to get into. It helps a student in figuring out how to do his/her job.
4. Promotion - Advancing in the corporate sector is a very important since that will determine one financial and in some cases social position. A college degree is evidence that helps one in climbing the corporate ladder. A degree provides evidence to higher ups that you have the necessary skills to be promoted to a higher position.
5. Learn - Majority of the students do not know exactly what it is they would like to achieve once they get out into the world. Many of them take things for granted, and many of them go with the flow never dreaming big or wanting to go a new level. But when a student goes to college, they

are exposed to so many activities, which include studies, projects, field trips, sports, clubs, extracurricular activities, jobs and many more. With this a student learns many new things irrespective of whether or not they use in their life in the future. But, students learn how to survive in the world by just going to college. College can help a student dream big.

There are many more reasons which would vary from student to student since it might be more of a personal reason. Such as:

6. Family - Many students especially international students are under great pressure from their family since that student might be the first one from the family going to college or he is expected to become a doctor or a lawyer. Family plays a vital role for every individual since parents send their children to college hoping that they can become something more than they themselves are.

7. Friends - Students can make new friends during college which will help after since in order to get out into the world many people will need some assistance which can only be given by friends since they are around the same age and it is something that they themselves are going through.

8. Hope - College degree can give hope to a student that he/she can achieve success even if they are lacking in some skills. Hope is a necessity in life since it helps us becoming more determined and confident in life which helps us achieving success. Thus a college degree gives hope to those who are looking to be high in the sky.

9. Competition - We humans live in a competing world and every lives by the rule of survival of the fittest. A college degree helps those looking to be the fittest achieve it as soon as possible. It is very important if one wants to get far in the world.

10. Personal satisfaction - After one gets a college degree, every single student is satisfied for getting a college degree and many are happy that they were able to get a degree. It helps in giving them happiness and confidence that if they could get a college degree, then they can also take on the world.

There are many more reasons, but the ones mentioned above are the most important and most noticeable. In the end, it is up to the individual to decide why college is important and why it is a necessity in today's world. Thus, College is something that helps a student prepare to enter the world.

In his commencement speech, Steve Jobs tells his graduating audience that he dropped out of college because he didn't believe that college could prepare him for the future. Today, college can be a rewarding and fulfilling experience with students earning future potential growth.

However, some would argue that college can be an immediate financial burden and cause a student to waste valuable time studying a career that they may not pursue. In a well written essay, write an argument to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

You will:

- Introduce your claim by acknowledging and distinguishing the claim from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
- Support claims with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
- Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claims, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Include an introduction, body and conclusion
- Check for grammar and punctuation
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Argument Map

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduce your claim:	
Supporting reason 1:	Evidence (facts or examples) to support reason 1:
Supporting reason 2:	Evidence (facts or examples) to support reason 2:
Supporting reason 3:	Evidence (facts or examples) to support reason 3:
Opposing claim:	Response to opposing claim:
Conclusion:	