

Responsibility

Prompt Sequence: Grades: 9-10 | Genre: Argumentative

This nine-week prompt sequence features a thoughtfully-designed set of high school prompts centered around the theme responsibility. Featured topics from our Signal Check, Spot Check, and Expansion Pack libraries focus on the essential elements of argumentative writing, while also exploring responsibility in different situations. Activities from the Curriculum Resources page further solidify students' communication skills and help to facilitate discussion of this theme in their lives.

Week 1: Diagnostic

Assign **Civil Service** in Spot Check as a diagnostic writing task to get a baseline regarding students' starting levels in each trait of this argumentative prompt about whether students have a responsibility to serve their country before college.

Week 2: Skill Targeting

Use the Assignment Report to assess the rubric traits in which the students struggled most on the diagnostic assignment. Prepare students for their formative assignment by leading an Expansion Pack activity aimed at improving areas of weakness.

Week 3: Preparation

Print and discuss the **Bag Tax** Exemplar Essays. Use the exemplar activities with students to illustrate and define key elements of successful argumentative writing.

Week 4: Formative Assignment

Assign **Bag Tax** in Signal Check for students to practice argumentative writing skills and receive formative, actionable feedback on their writing. This prompt explores the ecological responsibility that citizens have when using plastic grocery bags.

Week 5: Review and Skill Building

Use the Assignment Report to see where students struggled in their formative assignment. Lead an activity from the Expansion Pack Activities resource aimed at addressing the identified areas of need in order to prepare students for an argumentative extension assignment from the Expansion Pack library.

Week 6: Extension Assignment

Assign **A Doctor's Duty** in Expansion Pack for students to practice learned writing skills in a less scaffolded writing environment. This prompt questions whether a medically trained witness has a responsibility to offer medical assistance if they encounter an accident.

Week 7: Skill Building

Using the data from Week 5, lead a different activity from the Expansion Pack Activities resource aimed at addressing the identified areas of need in order to prepare students for an argumentative extension assignment from the Expansion Pack library.

Week 8: Extension Assignment

Assign **Teaching Climate Change in Schools** in Expansion Pack for students to practice learned writing skills in a less scaffolded writing environment. This prompt explores whether or not schools have a responsibility to include lessons on climate change in science classrooms.

Week 9: Culminating Writing Task

Assign **Letter to Your Principal: Cell Phones** in Spot Check as a culminating writing task to assess the students' progress on the skills of this unit of study. This prompt questions whether students are responsible enough to use cell phones in the classroom.

