**Deconstructing Prompts**

**(Or, taking apart writing prompts so you know what to write)**

To answer a writing prompt fully, you have to know what you are being asked to do. Here is one way you can figure out what a prompt is asking:

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**Prompt:**  Should electrical energy be generated from nuclear power or fossil fuels? After reading informational texts on how electrical energy is generated from these fuels, write an essay in which you compare the chemistry behind the two methods to generate electricity and argue which is the better method for production of electricity in an urban environment. Support your position with evidence from the texts.

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| * nuclear power * fossil fuels * electrical energy * generated * urban environment * chemistry | * read informational texts * write an essay * compare * argue * support position with evidence | * the chemistry behind generating electrical energy from nuclear power * the chemistry behind generating electrical energy from fossil fuels * effects of each way of generating electrical energy * which way is better/should be used in an urban environment |

You have read three texts describing Amelia Earhart. All three include the claim that Earhart was a brave, courageous person. Consider the argument each author uses to demonstrate Earhart’s bravery. Write an essay that analyzes the strength of the arguments about Earhart’s bravery in at least two of the texts. Remember to use textual evidence to support your ideas.

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After researching technical and scientific sources on soil types, write an article for a local paper that compares different soil types and argues which different types are best for growing potatoes, marigolds, and orange trees. Be sure to support your position with evidence from the texts.

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After reading informational texts on the structure and function of bridges and conducting an experiment to test your hypothesis of live load forces on bridge stability, write a laboratory report in which you explain your procedures and results and confirm or reject your hypothesis.

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Is hydraulic fracturing a cost effective and safe method for the use of extracting natural gas without causing harm to the environment? After reading the selected texts write a paper and construct a poster for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in which you address the question and argue whether this process for extracting fossil fuel is safe for the environment and is cost effective.

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How are game-changing sport plays attributed to Newton’s Laws? After reading “Why All Football Players Should Take Physics,” chapters 5 and 6 in your textbook, and additional informational texts on the sport of your choosing, write an essay that relates how ball movement in an isolated play is attributed by Newton’s Laws. Support your discussion with evidence from the text.

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Can the brain become smarter or is intelligence fixed? After reading articles on learning and the brain, write an article for your peers that relates how the brain develops over time from birth to 25 years, and how intelligence is developed. Support your discussion with evidence from the text.

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