

Prompt 1: (I cheated, but I am not wrong.)

You are the number one student in your class of 300 students; essentially, you are the quintessential scholar. You are enrolled in all AP classes, you work hard, and you are even involved in many extra-curricular activities. Your best friend is also enrolled in the same classes as you; however, s/he probably shouldn't be taking such classes: s/he struggles with the material, and s/he often doesn't complete his/her work—s/he is ranked 181 in the class. Anyway, one day you are called to stay after with your AP Language teacher, and he reveals that you are getting a zero on your last major assignment because you cheated with your best friend. He then shows you your assignment next to your friend's; the similarities are so clear, the crime is undeniable.

The biggest problem here: you DID cheat; however, you DO NOT think that you have done anything wrong; you believe your action is completely justifiable. Also, you have agreed to go home and reveal this dilemma to your parents, so now you are responsible to do so.

The following prompt IS different from the one above:

Prompt 2 (I never cheated!)

You are the number one student in your class of 300 students; essentially, you are the quintessential scholar. You are enrolled in all AP classes, work hard, and are even involved in many extra-curricular activities. Your best friend is also enrolled in the same classes as you; however, s/he probably shouldn't be taking such classes, struggles with the material, and often doesn't complete his/her work—s/he is ranked 181 in the class. Anyway, one day you are called to stay after with your AP Language teacher, and he reveals that you are getting a zero on your last major assignment because you cheated with your best friend. He then shows you your assignment next to your friend's, and the similarities are so clear it's essentially undeniable.

The biggest problem here is, however, at no point did you and your friend correspond in relation to the project; you didn't cheat. After going home and revealing this dilemma to your parents, you are encouraged—by them—to meet with your AP Language teacher and discuss the truth—that you didn't cheat—in a professional manner. Your parents explain that this is a learning opportunity of great value, and you are always up to challenges. In no less than 250 words, write a letter to your teacher that seeks to alleviate this situation.

Prompt 3 (Yikes, I don't want that out there!)

You are a politician running for governor in your state during an upcoming election. Recently, a reporter has dug up some “shady” information about your past; this information is true. (Feel free to be creative—yet appropriate—about what this information is.) You must address the press regarding the “supposed” incident. Apply the following criteria to your speech.

1. Your speech must be 250-300 words (5 minutes of TV time).
2. The evidence against you is concrete and irrefutable—feel free to **unethically synthesize** in order to spin the information in your favor.
3. You must include a quote from the article that exposes the information about your misdeed—yes, you must make up the quote. (The article does not actually exist—we hope.

Prompt 4 (I Don't Agree!)

You have been chosen as an honorary recipient for an award from an organization that you have philosophical differences with. (Feel free to be creative about what the award might be and who it's from.) You feel it is necessary to decline the award, but you must do so in a respectful manner.

- While you're welcome to be creative regarding the nature of the award and the organization, your response must be presented in a serious manner.

Prompt 5 (Terminal Illness)

You've just been informed that you have a terminal illness. You must break this terrible news to your family and loved ones. You feel that it is necessary to put the best possible spin on the situation that you can. You have decided to air your illness as a Facebook post. You may address all of your loved ones at once, or you may single out individuals for commentary; however, you must focus simply on the facts and attempt to put some type of positive spin on your illness. In other words, you must address the issue of your impending doom relying on logic rather than emotion.

- While you're welcome to be creative regarding the nature of your illness, you must take this seriously. There should be no "funny" or "silly" spin to this.
- Your response must attempt to spin your death in a positive way.

Prompt 6 (McDonald's CEO—E. coli)

You are the Regional Marketing Manager for six local McDonald's chains. A recent outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 has been traced back to three of your stores: each shares the same meat distributor. Five people have become sick as a result of eating tainted meat; one family, whose youngest child was hospitalized and nearly died from the sickness, is pursuing a lawsuit against McDonald's Corporation and has been vocal about the issue with local media. You have already identified the tainted product and have remediated the issue; however, it is your job to prepare a two hundred word statement, reassuring the public that it is safe to eat at the McDonald's in your district.

- You may not lie; however, you may stretch the truth or leave out information.

Prompt 7 (Fire Dad)

You are the CEO of a growing company that currently employs ten individuals. Your future prospects are encouraging; however, you have one employee that is detrimental to your company's growth: it's your father. You must fire your father in a way that will not cause tension amongst family members. You are not SORRY for having to do this. (You have always hated working with your father, but you love him dearly.) While your father is not good at his job, he truly loves doing it. He is constantly talking about work and how happy and proud he is to be working for his successful son/daughter.

- You must write a letter minimum 250 words in which you let your father know that he is being terminated from your company.
- Your response must consider the delicate nature of the family situation, but you are not allowed to apologize.

Prompt 8 (Satire)

In this rhetorical prompt you will have to look into some current event in the news and satirize it. You will need to write a satirical news article in which you take the facts from a current event and twist them into a more humorous version. The best way to do this is to exaggerate some aspect of the event or insert some element of the absurd or ridiculous into the event. You must post a link to the news story you based your satire on with your response.

- You need to make a serious story humorous using satirical devices such as absurdity or exaggeration.
- Your response must be based on a real story in the news and that story must be linked in your post.
- Minimum of 250 words.

Prompt 9 (Year End "Best of...")

You are an executive producer for ABC Broadcasting; it's nearing the end of the year, and you and the other executives at ABC have been asked to comprise a list of the best "X" of 2020, for an upcoming television show on the topic. (X=some specific type of media: songs, commercials, T.V. shows, books, movies, video games, etc.—you may choose what the media category is.) You must submit your top 3 choices from your category and provide a detailed proposal as to why each piece of media is the best-of-the-year.

Now, in your undertakings, you have discovered that a rival executive—a colleague whom you absolutely, completely, and totally despise—has submitted a selection that you absolutely, completely, and totally despise (just like him/her).

Create a proposal that explains why each of your selections should be on the best-of-the-year-list. And, in your proposal, you must, in a professional manner, challenge your colleague's selection without suggesting your hatred toward both the person and his/her ideas.

(When completing this assignment, you must use real media sources.)

Prompt 10 (Argumentative Dialogue)

Create a dialogue (a conversation between you and one other person), in which you are having an argument with another person. Feel free to be creative about both the topic of the argument and the person to whom you are arguing with; however, both the topic and personas must be school appropriate.

Your dialogue must meet the following criteria:

1. You must make at least 3 points that clearly defend and/or present your point of view in regards to the subject.
2. The person you are arguing with must provide a retort for each point you make with a clearly structured counter-argument.
3. You must address each counter-argument made by the person you are arguing with.
4. You must win the argument in the end.
5. Your argument must legitimately be convincing. Your grade, essentially, will be based on how clear and convincing your argument is in the end.