

STAAR Practice Expository Prompt

"If they give you ruled paper, write the other way."

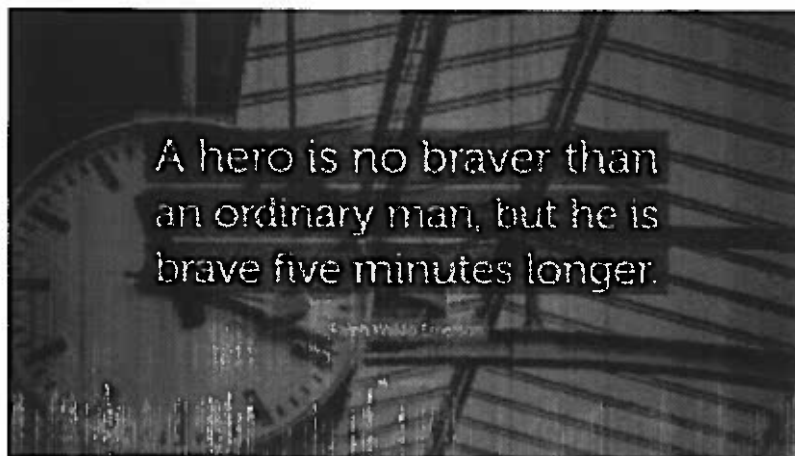
-Juan Ramón Jiménez

Think carefully about the previous statement. Write an essay explaining why it sometimes necessary to break rules.

Be sure to –

- Clearly state your thesis
- Organize and develop your ideas effectively
- Choose your words effectively
- Edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

READ the information in the box below.



A hero is not necessarily who or what we expect them to be. **THINK carefully** about this statement.

WRITE an expository essay discussing the qualities and characteristics someone should have to be considered a hero.

Be sure to –

- Clearly state your thesis
- Organize and develop your ideas effectively
- Choose your words carefully
- Edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Read the definition below.

pride

prīd/

noun

1.

a feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of those with whom one is closely associated, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired.

"the team was bursting with pride after recording a sensational victory"

synonyms: pleasure, joy, delight, gratification, fulfillment, satisfaction, a sense of achievement

"take pride in a good job well done"

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2.

a group of lions forming a social unit.

verb

1.

be especially proud of a particular quality or skill.

"she'd always prided herself on her ability to deal with a crisis"

synonyms: be proud of, be proud of oneself for, take pride in, take satisfaction in, congratulate oneself on, pat oneself on the back for

"Lucas prides himself on his knowledge of wine"

Although many people think pride is just the good feeling we get for a job well done, some people view pride as an enemy. Think carefully about this statement.

Write an essay explaining why people should view pride as either an enemy or a friend.

Be sure to –

- **clearly state your thesis**
- **organize and develop your ideas effectively**
- **choose your words carefully**
- **edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling**

ESSAY CHOICE #1:

Read:

“Mason knew what it was like to say things you didn’t mean, to just have them vomit out, and then feel that crushing ache when you realized you could never pull them back.”

— Dan Krokos, *The Planet Thieves*

Think about this statement. Once words are uttered, it is impossible to take them back.

Write an essay explaining how a person’s words can have unintended consequences.

Be sure to:

- Clearly state your thesis
 - Organize and develop your ideas effectively
 - Choose your words carefully
 - Edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling
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ESSAY CHOICE #2:

Read:

“I am accountable for every lie that I tell, but I am also accountable for the effects of every harsh truth I deliver.” – **Richelle E. Goodrich**

Think carefully about this statement. It has been said that we can lie with silence as well as with words.

Write an essay explaining how keeping silent is equivalent to a lie.

Be sure to:

- Clearly state your thesis
- Organize and develop your ideas effectively
- Choose your words carefully
- Edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

ESSAY CHOICE #3:

Read:

“As soon as you open your mind to doing things differently, the doors of opportunity practically fly off their hinges.”

— Jay Abraham, *The Sticking Point Solution: 9 Ways to Move Your Business from Stagnation to Stunning Growth In Tough Economic Times*

Think carefully about this statement. Superheroes, like Spiderman, don't use weapons to subdue their foes. Rather, they rely upon a few special tools and their own ingenuity.

Write an essay explaining the importance of being able to think on your feet.

Be sure to:

- Clearly state your thesis
 - Organize and develop your ideas effectively
 - Choose your words carefully
 - Edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling
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