

High School Sample Prompt

Voice

Adults have influence on young people's lives. Think about the qualities demonstrated by adults that you admire.

Write an essay explaining the most important qualities demonstrated by adults that you admire.

Your essay should include:

- An introduction, body, and conclusion.
- An explanation of the qualities.
- Specific, appropriate details.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

VOICE

<p>6</p> <p>The writer has chosen a voice appropriate for the topic, purpose and audience. The writer seems deeply committed to the topic, and there is an exceptional sense of “writing to be read.” The writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an effective level of closeness to or distance from the audience (e.g., a narrative should have a strong personal voice, while an expository piece may require extensive use of outside resources and a more academic voice; nevertheless, both should be engaging, lively, or interesting. Technical writing may require greater distance.). • an exceptionally strong sense of audience; the writer seems to be aware of the reader and of how to communicate the message most effectively. The reader may discern the writer behind the words and feel a sense of interaction. • a sense that the topic has come to life; when appropriate, the writing may show originality, liveliness, honesty, conviction, excitement, humor, or suspense. 	<p>5</p> <p>The writer has chosen a voice appropriate for the topic, purpose, and audience. The writer seems committed to the topic, and there is a sense of “writing to be read.” The writing is expressive, engaging or sincere. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an appropriate level of closeness to or distance from the audience (e.g., a narrative should have a strong personal voice while an expository piece may require extensive use of outside resources and a more academic voice; nevertheless, both should be engaging, lively or interesting. Technical writing may require greater distance.). • a strong sense of audience; the writer seems to be aware of the reader and of how to communicate the message most effectively. The reader may discern the writer behind the words and feel a sense of interaction. • a sense that the topic has come to life; when appropriate, the writing may show originality, liveliness, honesty, conviction, excitement, humor, or suspense. 	<p>4</p> <p>A voice is present. The writer demonstrates commitment to the topic, and there may be a sense of “writing to be read.” In places, the writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a questionable or inconsistent level of closeness to or distance from the audience. • a sense of audience; the writer seems to be aware of the reader but has not consistently employed an appropriate voice. The reader may glimpse the writer behind the words and feel a sense of interaction in places. • liveliness, sincerity, or humor when appropriate; however, at times the writing may be either inappropriately casual or personal, or inappropriately formal and stiff.
<p>3</p> <p>The writer’s commitment to the topic seems inconsistent. A sense of the writer may emerge at times; however, the voice is either inappropriately personal or inappropriately impersonal. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a limited sense of audience; the writer’s awareness of the reader is unclear. • an occasional sense of the writer behind the words; however, the voice may shift or disappear a line or two later and the writing become somewhat mechanical. • a limited ability to shift to a more objective voice when necessary. 	<p>2</p> <p>The writing provides little sense of involvement or commitment. There is no evidence that the writer has chosen a suitable voice. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • little engagement of the writer; the writing tends to be largely flat, lifeless, stiff, or mechanical. • a voice that is likely to be overly informal and personal. • a lack of audience awareness; there is little sense of “writing to be read.” • little or no hint of the writer behind the words. There is rarely a sense of interaction between reader and writer. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing seems to lack a sense of involvement or commitment. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no engagement of the writer; the writing is flat and lifeless. • a lack of audience awareness; there is no sense of “writing to be read.” • no hint of the writer behind the words. There is no sense of interaction between writer and reader; the writing does not involve or engage the reader.

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Writing

DRAFT

The person who I admire is
because she helps you use you need it. And
she is a every nice and kind, lovely person
to have. listens to the students
problems.

Rubric Score 1 – Writing shows lack of involvement. There is no sense of interaction between writer and reader. The writer haphazardly lists ideas about an adult. The reader must attempt to infer who she is.

Writing

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I admire my mom because she is really nice to me. I love my mom because she buyies me new clothes and some other new stuff. I look up for my mom alot. I really admire my mom alot because she takes me on trips to Disney land or to Six flags magic mountain to have a lots of fun.



Rubric Score 2 – Writing has a lack of audience awareness and provides little sense of involvement with the topic. The faint voice tends to be overly personal. The writer refers to “my mom” and “nice to me” which has little meaning for a reader.

Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

The following paragraphs will be on the qualities I admire adults for.

Every adult is different, I admire them of their job and their family. When I admire an adult, it has something to do with them. It could be something I want or wished I had.

I have two adults that I admire, my bosses. I have chosen them because of their life-style. Each one has his problems, but they each have good families and good jobs.

I admire their families because of how they work together. Most of all I admire their jobs. One of my bosses sit at home and works on engines, doing what he loves. The other works in construction doing hard job to support his family.

I admire that about these are two of the reasons I have chosen them.

Rubric Score 3 – The writer’s commitment to the topic seems inconsistent. There is a limited sense of audience. An occasional sense of the writer behind the words emerges, but is quickly lost in mundane, overly-general details. The writer seems to be listing ideas, not sharing meaning thoughts. Paragraph three hints at a teenager who recognizes positive qualities, but the following paragraphs do not maintain commitment to the explaining of those qualities.

Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Do you have any adults around you who have specific qualities that you admire? I do and I'm going to tell you about those specific qualities in the following essay.

There are many specific qualities that some of the adults around me display that I admire. One in particular is being a hard worker. What I mean by that is the adult does what is asked of him without complaining about it, and if he finishes a little early, he goes above and beyond the boss's expectations and asks him if there is anything else that he needs done. If so, he does that too without any complaints, because he does all of this he is now the boss.

Another quality that an adult around me displays that I admire is being on time. He's always on time to work, meetings, appointments and pretty much everything else. Since he's always on time to work, when something came up and he couldn't make it on time, his boss would understand and it wouldn't be a problem.

In conclusion there are many qualities that I admire about certain adults around me, but the qualities that I listed in this essay are the most important to me. I believe that if you demonstrate these basic qualities at work, and

Writing

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any where else they are needed, you will do well
in life.

Rubric Score 4 – Paper demonstrates commitment to the topic and an occasional sense of writing to be read is present. Writer is beginning to use expression and shows awareness of the reader but is not consistent in appropriate voice. At times, the voice is inappropriately formal and stiff. The writer has relied upon a rhetorical device to begin and the formulaic “In Conclusion” to end, but the body of the paper clearly presents specific details that show the reader the person behind the words.



Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Adults are what we, as children, look up to. Not only as an authority but as a guiding hand. In order to an authority, or a guiding hand, emotional maturity is needed. Along with the ability to listen and take on day to day responsibilities. Without emotional maturity, listening skills, and the ability to be responsible I don't think there would be adults.

Emotional maturity, to me, means to be able to put another being before yourself. This quality is vital to me because when I grow up, and have a family, I will need to be able to put others needs before my own. Emotional maturity shows that your willing to risk yourself for other s. I think to live in the world that we live in that's a very important quality. Without it, I think that children would go to be cold and hungry and that our world would be a very greedy, unsafe place to live.

Listening skills is a quality that we can never know enough of. Its an important quality to have, because we live in an environment where we are constantly needing to know what's going on with our family, friend's, and even in our world. Listening skills are taught to us when we are very young and I can say that I wish I had more of this specific skill. Adults teach us to listen to others, whether they are: giving advice, directions, or just hearing another person's

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side of a story.

Responsibility is a quality that comes from the inside, and I firmly believe this. You have to truly love someone or something before you can take on full responsibility for it or else you could easily forget about it. Responsibility comes in all shapes and sizes. Personally, I'd like to say that responsibility is a quality that my parents want to instill in me, and my brothers and sisters. Whether it's: taking the dog for a walk, turning off the oven, or just picking up after myself, responsibilities are everywhere and you can't just turn your back on them. The older we get, the more responsibilities we seem to have, so I think it's important that we learn to be responsible at a young age so that we can grow to be reliable adults.

Without these three qualities I think it would be extremely difficult to do every day jobs and have every day lives. Emotional maturity, listening skills, and responsibility are very crucial in today's society. Hopefully adults will do all that they can, to teach the youth of America these qualities so that we can grow to be good role models for the next generation.

Rubric Score 5 – The writer seems committed to the topic, displaying an appropriate level of closeness or distance from the audience. The writer shows honesty and conviction to the topic. The writing is sincere and there is a strong sense of audience. The writer shows skill presenting a clear message, especially about emotional maturity, without becoming too personal.



Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

What does it mean to be an adult? Does it mean life just suddenly comes into place? No, it certainly does not. Does it mean you become an influence to countless developing minds? Well it does if you want it to be, and I can think of numerous adults who have done just that.

The first adult, that I believe was the first person to ever truly help shape me into the person I have become, would have to be my dad. Just as I was starting my "teen" phase in life, he was starting the hardest phase in his. At the age of 38, my dad was going to have to go through countless surgeries to be able to save his leg. And even after many painstaking months in and out of hospitals and rehab, he would only have a 15% chance of ever walking again. Whether or not my dad was born under a lucky star, I have no idea. What I do know is that for 6 months, day after day, he consistently pushed his limits, strived to succeed, and in the end, did. He now hikes, mountain bikes and plays tennis on a regular basis. He is a constant reminder to me, of the power of human dedication.

Another person I greatly admire, would have to be my grandfather. At age three, both his parents died within months of each other, repercussions of having fled from Russia. He

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grew up in a three bedroom house with thirteen children. But even through all the chaos, he managed to get through school, and start a new life. Unfortunately his new life, would have to consist of fighting in the Vietnam. He was a parachutist for the French Army, and on his third jump down, he was captured, tortured, and released three years later. Thankfully, he managed to get passed this, he got married, had a family, and worked hard, so that no one he loved would ever had to go through what he did. My grandfather to me, is the human incarnation of strength and the willpower to survive.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not saying every adult out there has this great story on overcoming life's obstacles, because many don't. It's the rare few, who when faced with life's great obstacles, don't shy away from it, but instead, surmount it and live to tell the story. These are the rare few that should shape all young minds, because these are the heroes of the past, and we must carry the tradition, for all the generations to come.

Rubric Score 6 – The writer seems deeply committed to the topic and there is an exceptional sense of writing to be read. An exceptionally strong sense of audience is conveyed. The writer is adept at maintaining an effective level of closeness to the audience. The voice portrays honesty, conviction, and sincerely. While the writer begins with the pat rhetorical question, he/she takes it beyond the formulaic by incorporating answers to gain the reader's attention. The writer's voice hooks and maintains reader interest by speaking directly to the audience.

