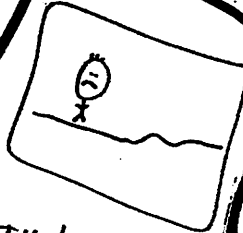


Problem:
 Trouble connecting
 an abstract thought
 to multiple texts?

Solution: Mental gymnastics
 for building the mental muscles of
 connections

Google: visual prompts



It's hard to wait.

11-Minute Essays

1. START WITH A PICTURE AND A TRUISM →

11-Minute Essay

Truism

how it's true in a story

how it's true in a movie

how it's true in history

I wonder

2. Use this structure →

1. Copy the truism. (Change it if you can, to make it more true for you.)
2. Explain what it means.
3. Think of a book or story that shows how true it is. Indent. Name that story and tell how that truism is true in the book.
4. Think of a movie that shows how true it is. Indent. Name that moment and tell how that truism is true in the movie.
5. Think of a moment from history. Indent. Name that moment and tell how that truism is true in that moment in history.
6. What does all this make you wonder about the statement? About your future? Indent. Finish with "I wonder..." or "This makes me wonder..." or any other way.
7. Share.

3. Use these directions with your students →

4. Share...and Repeat.

Dante, a 6th grader, was not very good at this on the 1st day. Then he got better. And better. And better. Kids learn when they hear the thoughts of other kids!

Day 1

Day 1
 Date: _____
 Title: _____
 Number: 11/20/11
 I wonder...
 I wonder if I will be able to do this...
 I wonder if I will be able to do this...
 I wonder if I will be able to do this...

Day 2

Day 2
 Date: _____
 Title: _____
 Number: 11/20/11
 I wonder...
 I wonder if I will be able to do this...
 I wonder if I will be able to do this...
 I wonder if I will be able to do this...

Day 3

Day 3
 Date: _____
 Title: _____
 Number: 11/20/11
 I wonder...
 I wonder if I will be able to do this...
 I wonder if I will be able to do this...
 I wonder if I will be able to do this...

Brought to you by
 Gretchen.bernabei@gmail.com

NAME: _____
DATE: _____
Writing Composition Item # 2
40 Minutes

"Good friends are like stars you can always see them but they are not."
In life, situations happen where we never know if our friends are truly there for us. The stars are like that. You can't see them until you look for them. In the dark of the night, it's important to have a good friend because they may know the answer to your questions and they help you see the light of hope.

To begin with, I believe it is important to have a good friend because they have the answer to your questions. Take for example, the battle of Waterloo in the United States have been taking down ever since to the British, the strongest army in the 19th century, and posed the question that do we need to defeat them? One of the leaders went to a conference with the French and he could contact them and asked for their help. On the day of the battle the French attacked the British by surprise which helped to win the battle. This was the turning point of the war but they couldn't have done it without the help of the French, who lost the answer they have been looking for.

Furthermore, I believe it is important to have a good friend because they can help in a time of trouble. Take the book "The Fault in Our Stars" for example. Hazel Grace has time to live the most beautiful life in the world, she should have how to live life by focusing on present time not by future time. The book tells that the matter about is happening in the world because we don't always have a friend to be there for us.

In conclusion, I believe it is important to have a good friend because they may be the answer to your questions in a time of trouble. Good friends are like stars, you can't see them until you look for them.

Score 8
English II

Score 8
Grade 7

ON STAAR?
yes.

Dreaming is an essential mindset as it opens a portal for opportunity to rise from a state of stagnation. In our society, individuals may successfully strive for a higher existence of ability, and diminish the metaphorical restraints referred to as "practicality" and "reality".

By "dreaming big," people may live an improved life. In the book, *Artemis*, socialism is the way of governing, and citizens' lives are planned for them, as this was the norm. Unfortunately, Prometheus, a talented individual is assigned to the House of Sweepers, even though he shows promise in innovation. Prometheus stealthily works with his knowledge and when his actions are revealed, he is banished to the Forbidden Forest to live or self-governing life. This "impulsive" action is considered as impractical, and yet Prometheus builds a small civilization where he lives an ideal life. By conflicting with the norm and pursuing the ideal, Prometheus cherishes his happy ever after. Therefore, even though one may be looked down upon for the mind's capability of reaching new heights, goodness and happiness is possible.

Furthermore, by going beyond reality, discoveries and growth may arise. Although during the 1500s, to travel to this "New World" which was rather mystically spoken of seemed unrealistic, England insisted on sailing west to find their "ideal" determination and perseverance, a nation across the globe previously considered impossible. America, as unlikely as it may seem, there is a path to good outcomes from idealism.

Individuals who place their beliefs high and who contemplates unique ideas should not be discouraged by their surroundings. History has shown that it is possible to think outside the box without feeling an inevitable failure. By being independent with our imagination unrestrained to become a surging wave of power to pushover barriers, we can expand our horizons. Indeed we can create and reside in a perfect world which is so desired by interdependently combining our idealist perceptions to voyage into a new dimension, Utopia.

338 words

opinion	one effect (ex. from literature)	another effect (ex. from history)	opinion
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This persuasive essay scored an 8 on the 2015 English II EOC.

One surefire STAAR structure

900.91/MLE/k
by Prezi & the Brisenos



Score 8
English II

Score 8
English II

People in the world who are idealistic help bring change to the world and create new things. Those who tend to dream big are the ones who are more determined to get things done. It helps them work harder, and overall, in life, they are happier. Therefore, an idealistic approach is more valuable in life.

First, people who have big dreams set goals for themselves to get their overall goal. One example for this is myself, I have big dreams of being on Broadway one day. My small goals include, finishing out high school and this time I am in choir class, theater class, as well as, participating in theater production, attending studio dance class, and taking voice lessons outside of school. After finishing high school, I plan on attending college in New York to continue my arts studies, meanwhile, becoming a member of actor's equity and auditioning for shows to possibly be in. For big dreamers, setting small goals is vital to eventually reaching their overall goal or else there is no way of reaching the ultimate goal.

Those who are more idealistic also work harder and are more determined. For example, the dancer, Michaela Depina, is a now a member of the Royal Ballet Company. She was first known in the documentary, "First Position," where she participated in the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP). Michaela does not fit the image of the common ballet dancer, but if someone has the talent, then the body doesn't matter as much. She has points classes everyday to make it to the finals of the YAGP out millions of people around the world. Also, in this time, Michaela had her tendon in her foot, which made it excruciatingly painful to dance on pointe, but she fought through it and placed in the top 10 and that is how she came to where she is today. Obviously, it takes real determination and hard work for idealistic people to get to where they want to be and if they have it enough, they will fight to get there.

In conclusion, it is plain to see that being idealistic is more valuable because it makes people plan, and work hard to get what they ultimately want. This does not count for artist, but for every person that dreams big whether they are an inventor, doctor, scientist or a teacher. All big ideas or just a change start with one idealistic person with a dream, a goal, and a plan to get there.

416 words

opinion	example from my life	example from the real world	opinion
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This persuasive essay scored an 8 on the 2015 English II EOC.

Who wants to fly, go to space, or even time travel? Those were dreams that many of us desired, and perhaps those dreams might come true. Dreaming big is better than being realistic because it can provide ideas that can benefit the world technologically & socially as well as ourselves.

Technology is an abundant part of humanity that fully welcomes those who dream to change the world with their ideas. Take an example of the Wright brothers, before they invented the airplanes, people thought it would take a thousand years to have flying machines. What we have now, thanks to the Wright brothers' accomplishment in inventing airplanes, we are now able to fly far faster. From dream to reality, the Wright brothers had changed the world by increasing the speed of transportation from one location to another.

Another reason dreaming big is better is to improve our society. Take a look at Martin Luther King Jr. He dreamed of changing people's thoughts on darker skinned people. Because of him, he was able to reduce racism in which nowadays we no longer have separated schools for different races, but for everyone. Martin's popularity & focus of equality deserved him a national day for us to have a day without school. Thank you Martin Luther King!

Lastly, dreaming big can motivate us to succeed & achieve our dreams. In the book, *Chasing Dream*, the author said that he always wanted to become an astronaut. After years of college & training, he was finally able to become a part of NASA, fulfilling his long life dream of going to space.

It is true that dreaming can sometimes be a waste of time, but if you are dreaming big, you are dreaming big. Dreaming big can help succeed in our life because we, as the next generation, have the potential to shape our society & even the world. "I had a dream," said Martin Luther King.

opinion	one effect (ex. from history)	another effect (ex. from literature)	opinion
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This persuasive essay scored an 8 on the 2015 English II EOC.

TEXTS IN OUR LIVES

- History
- Books
- Movies
- News
- Science
- Sports

For more info:
 Revising the Essay Lesson 5
 Why We Must Run With Scissors, Lesson 23
 Fun Size Academic Writing, Lesson 56
 Lightning in a Bottle

Jessica Cavazos, thank you!