**Writing 101 Essay Topics**

**Directions:** As we go through the Writing 101 unit, you will work on writing a different portion of an essay each day. For your essay, you should choose one of the following topics. Once you’ve chosen a topic, you must stick with it, so choose carefully. No changing topics.

1. **Writing Situation:**  Your school district’s school board is considering opening a single gender school. All-girl schools have been gaining popularity in recent years because of the belief that girls learn better when they aren’t competing with or intimidated by boys, who statistically get more attention in the classroom.

**Instructions**: Do you think single-sex schools are a good idea? Why or why not? Use speciﬁc reasons and examples to support your position.

1. **Writing Situation:**  Many junior high and high schools around the country now require students to spend a certain number of hours each term doing volunteer work or community service. Some people believe this is an excellent idea that promotes good citizenship and cultivates compassion. Others feel that forced volunteerism is not volunteerism at all.

**Instructions**: How do you feel about this issue? Should Langston should continue its community service requirements. Use speciﬁc reasons and examples.

1. **Writing Situation:**  Elementary and secondary schools around the country are beginning to actively address the problem of bullies.

**Instructions**: In your opinion, is bullying an issue that should be addressed by schools or left to parents? Use speciﬁc reasons and examples to support your position.

1. **Writing Situation:** Being an educated reader is clearly important during school life and beyond.  The real world, however, typically requires proficiency in non-fiction genres, like business reports, articles, etc. Is reading ﬁction in school a waste of time? Why or why not?

**Instructions:**  Should schools continue to include fiction in the curriculum.  Explain your argument using speciﬁc reasons and examples to support your position

1. **Writing Situation:**  Many science ﬁction stories deal with the possibility of being able to “design” our children by choosing the speciﬁc physical and personality traits we would like them to have.  In fact, it’s currently possible to choose eye color and even the gender of a fetus by manipulating its genes while still inside the mother’s womb.

**Instructions:** Should parents be allowed to genetically alter the qualities for their own baby? Why or why not? Use speciﬁc reasons and examples to support your position.

1. **Writing Situation:**  Too Much Homework-Some of the parents at your school have started a campaign to limit the homework that teachers can assign to students.  Teachers at your school have argued that the homework is necessary.

**Instructions**:  What is your position?  Explain your position and support it with convincing reasons.