

**WESTEST 2 Online Writing Released Field-Tested
Passage and Prompt
Grade 11 Informative Sample**

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Grade 11 Sample Passage and Prompt**

Grade:	11
CSO:	RLA.O.11.2.06 develop personal style and voice in writing, and create a clear, logical progression of ideas in argumentative writing, research writing, literary analysis, and creative and reflective writing
Genre:	Informative
21st Century Emphasis:	Information and Media Literacy; visual literacy; civic literary

**WESTEST 2 Online Writing
Eleventh Grade Passage and Prompt**

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and prompt and type a composition in the box below.

Passage:

Video to Candidate

The Internet allows people greater access to political candidates than ever before. For example, in 2007 two major media outlets teamed up to lead an online debate where ordinary citizens submitted their personal and heartfelt questions for the debate in video format.

The videos were varied. Some took a humorous approach, as in the question about the environment that was posed by an animated, melting snowman. Many were touching, with people putting a personal face to issues that impact many people's lives. Often they were creative, including costumes, props, or musical acts. Whatever the approach, the questioners were passionate about wanting candidates to answer hard-hitting questions about issues important to voters.

Nearly everyone has a strong opinion about at least one issue on the political stage. Questions posed to the candidates could range from concerns about education, health, taxes, to more personal freedoms, or to more local issues. Whatever the issue, having it addressed by the candidate by presenting the question yourself is quite an

opportunity.

Think about a question that you would like a candidate to answer. The candidate may be running for local, state, or national office.

Prompt:

Write an essay to the organizations running the debate in which you explain how you would present the question to the candidate in video format. Be sure to include information about why you believe this question is important.