

TSIA 2.0 ELAR

Interactive Notebook

Make your notebook your own!

Choose from the following stickers or add some of your own. Also include your name on your notebook, make sure to change the font and color



Erika Prelow
TSIA-2 ELAR

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Prompt 1: Acquisition and Money

Passage:

What explains our increasing obsession with money and the things it can buy? It seems as though the acquisition of money is gradually replacing real measures of success, such as integrity, honesty, skill, and hard work.

Assignment:

Has the acquisition of money and possessions replaced more meaningful ways of measuring our achievements?

A thesis might look like:

The acquisition of money and possessions has replaced more meaningful ways of measuring our achievements because

_____, _____, and _____.

Prompt 1: Acquisition and Money

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* Indicates required question

☐ Option 1



TSIA 2.0 Tips

TIPS

- Write as close to 600 words as possible.
Have a clear thesis as the last sentence of your introduction.
- Make sure to have 5 paragraphs.
- Indent your paragraphs (5 spaces).
- Write at least 2 compound and 2 complex sentences.
- Use transitions at the beginning of your paragraphs. (To begin with,)
- Use words from the prompt at least 4-5 times in your essay.
- Use good vocabulary.

Prompt 1: Acquisition and Money

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Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 2: Results of Deception

Passage:

There are two kinds of pretending. There is the bad kind, as when a person falsely promises to be your friend. But there is also the good kind, where the pretense eventually turns into the real thing. For example, when you are not feeling particularly friendly, the best thing you can do, very often, is to act in a friendly manner. In a few minutes, you may really be feeling friendlier.

Assignment:

Can deception- pretending that something is true when it is not- sometimes have good results?

A thesis might look like:

Deception can have good results because

_____, _____, and
_____.

Prompt 2: Results of Deception

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Prompt 2: Results of Deception

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Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 3: Books Provide Lessons

Passage:

Many people deny that stories about characters and events that are not real can teach us about ourselves or about the world around us. They claim that literature does not offer us worthwhile information about the real world. These people argue that the feelings and ideas we gain from books and stories obstruct, rather than contribute to, clear thought.

Assignment:

Can books and stories about characters and events that are not real teach us anything useful?

A thesis might look like:

Books and stories about characters and events that are not real can teach useful things like

_____, _____, and _____.

Prompt 3: Books Provide Lessons

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Prompt 3: Books Provide Lessons

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Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 4: Differences Among People

Passage:

From the time people are very young, they are urged to get along with others, to try to “fit in.” Indeed, people are often rewarded for being agreeable and obedient. But this approach is misguided because it promotes uniformity instead of encouraging people to be unique and different. Differences among people give each of us greater perspective and allow us to make better judgments

Assignment:

Is it more valuable for people to fit in than to be unique and different?

A thesis might look like:

It is better for people to fit in because

_____,
_____, and
_____.

Prompt 4: Differences Among People

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Prompt 4: Differences Among People

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Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 5: Purpose for Working

Passage:

Most human beings spend their lives doing work they hate and work that the world does not need. It is of prime importance that you learn early what you want to do and whether or not the world needs this service. The return from your work must be the satisfaction that work brings you and the world's need of that work. Income is not money, it is satisfaction; it is creation; it is beauty.

Assignment:

Is it more important to do work that one finds fulfilling or work that pays well?

A thesis might look like:

It is more important to do work that is fulfilling because _____,
_____, and
_____.

Prompt 5: Purpose for Working

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Prompt 5: Purpose for Working

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Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 6: Originality

Passage:

It is better to try to be original than to merely imitate others. People should always try to say, write, think, or create something new. There is little value in merely repeating what has been done before. People who merely copy or use the ideas and inventions of others, no matter how successful they may be, have never achieved anything significant.

Assignment:

Is it always better to be original than to imitate or use the ideas of others?

A thesis might look like:

It is better to imitate or use the ideas of others because _____,
_____, and
_____.

Prompt 6: Originality

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TSIA Tips

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Prompt 6: Originality

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Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 7: Rules

Passage:

People are often told to obey the rules. In reality, these rules are not permanent: what is right at a given point in time may be declared wrong at another time and vice versa. The world changes so rapidly that rules are out-of-date almost as soon as they are created. People cannot rely on established guidelines to determine what they should and should not do.

Assignment:

Are established rules too limited to guide people in real-life situations?

A thesis might look like:

Established rules are not too limited to guide people in real-life situations because

_____,
_____, and
_____.

Prompt 7: Rules

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- Use good vocabulary.

Prompt 7: Rules

Script to Score Essay Using AI

Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 8: Happiness

Passage:

Abraham Lincoln said, "Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." In other words, our personal level of satisfaction is entirely within our control. Otherwise, why would the same experience disappoint one person but delight another? Happiness is not an accident but a choice.

Assignment:

Is happiness something over which people have no control, or can people choose to be happy?

A thesis might look like:

People can choose to be happy because

_____,

_____, and

_____.

Prompt 8: Happiness

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- Use good vocabulary.

Prompt 8: Happiness

Script to Score Essay Using AI

Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 9: Ideas

Passage:

It is rare to find an objective and independent viewpoint on style, literature, politics, or any other matter. Many people's opinions are formed through their associations with others. It is our nature to conform; conformity is a force that few can successfully resist. We give in to the human instinct to go along with the crowd and to have its approval.

Assignment:

Do we tend to accept the opinions of others instead of developing our own independent ideas?

A thesis might look like:

People tend to accept the opinions of others instead of develop their own independent ideas because _____,
_____, and
_____.

Prompt 9: Ideas

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Prompt 9: Ideas

Script to Score Essay Using AI

Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 10: History

Passage:

How valuable is history for our generation? On the surface this question is not as easy as it once might have been, for there is a widespread belief that history may no longer be relevant to modern life. We live, after all, in an age that appears very different from the world that came before us.

Assignment:

Is knowledge of the past no longer useful for us today?

A thesis might look like:

Knowledge of the past is useful today because _____,
_____, and
_____.

Prompt 10: History

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- Use good vocabulary.

Prompt 10: History

Script to Score Essay Using AI

Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 11: Mistakes

Passage:

I do not feel terrible about my mistakes, though I grieve the pain they have sometimes caused others. Our lives are “experiments with truth,” and in an experiment negative results are at least as important as successes. I have no idea how I would have learned the truth about myself and my calling without the mistakes I have made.

Assignment:

Is it necessary to make mistakes, even when doing so has negative consequences for other people?

A thesis might look like:

It is necessary to make mistakes, even if they have negative consequences for other people, because _____,
_____, and
_____.

Prompt 11: Mistakes

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- Use good vocabulary.

Prompt 11: Mistakes

Script to Score Essay Using AI

Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 12: Solutions

Passage:

We are often urged to solve problems by ignoring traditional approaches and by finding solutions that are innovative or unconventional. We are encouraged to be creative and to trust that a new way of thinking will yield new insights. But innovation may be impractical and unnecessary. The best ways of fixing problems are often the tried-and-true ways.

Assignment:

Is it always necessary to find new solutions to problems?

A thesis might look like:

It is not always necessary to find new solutions to problems because

_____,
_____, and
_____.

Prompt 12: Solutions

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- Use good vocabulary.

Prompt 12: Solutions

Script to Score Essay Using AI

Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 13: Optimism

Passage:

In many circumstances, optimism- the expectation that one's ideas and plans will always turn out for the best is unwarranted. In these situations what is needed is not an upbeat view but a realistic one. There are times when people need to take a tough-minded view of the possibilities of success, give up, and invest their energies elsewhere rather than find reasons to continue to pursue the original project or idea.

Assignment:

Is it better for people to be realistic or optimistic?

A thesis might look like:

It is better to be realistic because

_____,
_____, and
_____.

Prompt 13: Optimism

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- Use good vocabulary.

Prompt 13: Optimism

Script to Score Essay Using AI

Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 14: Skills

Passage:

I cannot comprehend those who emphasize or recognize only what is useful. I am concerned that learning for learning's sake is no longer desirable, that everything we do and think must be directed toward the solution of a practical problem. More and more we seem to try to teach how to make a good living and not how to live a good life.

Assignment:

Do people put too much emphasis on learning practical skills?

A thesis might look like:

People do not put too much emphasis on learning practical skills because

_____,
_____, and
_____.

Prompt 14: Skills

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TSIA Tips

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- Use good vocabulary.

Prompt 14: Skills

Script to Score Essay Using AI

Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 15: Goals

Passage:

People are happy only when they have their minds fixed on some goal other than their own happiness. Happiness comes when people focus instead on the happiness of others, on the improvement of humanity, on some course of action that is followed not as a means to anything else but as an end in itself. Aiming at something other than their own happiness, they find happiness along the way. The only way to be happy is to pursue some goal external to your own happiness.

Assignment:

Are people more likely to be happy if they focus on goals other than their own happiness?

A thesis might look like:

People are more likely to be happy if they focus on goals because _____,
_____, and
_____.

Prompt 15: Goals

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- Use good vocabulary.

Prompt 15: Goals

Script to Score Essay Using AI

Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 16: Success

Passage:

Success in life is largely a matter of luck. It has little correlation with merit, and in all fields of life there have always been people of great merit who did not succeed.

As Colin Powell said, "There are no secrets to success. Don't waste time looking for them. Success is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure."

Assignment:

Is success in life earned or do people succeed because they are lucky?

A thesis might look like:

Success in life is earned because

_____,
_____, and
_____.

Prompt 16: Success

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Prompt 16: Success

Script to Score Essay Using AI

Input score and feedback here...

Prompt 17: Change

Passage:

A teenager challenges everything and by forming habits of intellectual and emotional independence, makes himself or herself into an adult. In a similar way, all people can learn the behaviors that they need to become the people they want to be. We can all change ourselves—our behaviors, our goals, our relationships—because our potential for change is unlimited.

Assignment:

Is our ability to change ourselves unlimited, or are there limits on our ability to make important changes in our lives?

A thesis might look like:

There are limits on our ability to make important changes in our lives because

_____,
_____, and
_____.

Prompt 17: Change

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Prompt 17: Change

Script to Score Essay Using AI

Input score and feedback here...

TSIA 2 Rubric

TSIA 2 Writing Rubric (WritePlacer Essay Scoring Guide)		
Score	Description of Performance	Feedback / Instructional Focus
8 – Exemplary Mastery	Demonstrates clear and consistent mastery of on-demand essay writing. Insightfully develops a sophisticated point of view, maintains precise focus, and shows strong critical thinking with compelling examples. Language is fluent and varied with virtually no errors.	Exemplary. Continue refining nuanced argumentation, transitions, and stylistic control. Mentor peers on clarity and cohesion.
7 – Consistent Mastery	Demonstrates consistent mastery with clear purpose and smooth progression of ideas. Uses apt vocabulary and varied sentence structure. Minor mechanical errors only.	Excellent. Sustain voice and depth by balancing reasoning and evidence; refine transitions for sophistication.
6 – Reasonably Consistent Mastery	Shows reasonably consistent mastery. Develops a clear point of view with strong critical thinking and organization. Occasional lapses in precision or depth of evidence. Few errors in grammar or spelling.	Solid performance. Strengthen elaboration of examples and tighten focus to ensure each paragraph advances the claim.
5 – Adequate Mastery (College-Ready Cut Score; 500+ words)	Demonstrates adequate mastery of essay writing. Develops a viable point of view with competent reasoning and evidence. Generally organized and focused, but may lack full coherence or depth. Minor errors in mechanics or style.	Passing level. To move beyond “adequate,” strengthen thesis clarity, deepen analysis, and use more precise, varied vocabulary.
4 – Developing Mastery	Demonstrates developing control. Presents a viable but uneven point of view; limited evidence or lapses in focus and organization. Some errors interfere with clarity.	Needs revision. Work on paragraph unity, transitions, and relevant examples. Edit for run-ons, fragments, and word choice.
3 – Little Mastery	Demonstrates little mastery. Shows vague ideas, weak reasoning, and minimal development. Frequent grammatical or structural errors obscure meaning.	Foundational support needed. Practice crafting thesis statements, organizing body paragraphs, and editing for sentence control.
2 – Very Little Mastery	Shows very limited command. Disorganized, unclear main idea, and pervasive errors in language and mechanics.	Major reteach. Focus on writing complete paragraphs, correcting sentence boundaries, and clarifying central idea.
1 – No Mastery	Shows no mastery. Lacks a viable point of view, coherence, or control of language. Severe errors dominate.	Non-scorable. Reteach full essay structure—introduction, body, and conclusion—and conventions of Standard English.

The Argumentative Essay Essentials

Thinking question: How can I balance both sides before taking a stand?

Terms	Definition	Purpose in Argument Writing	Sentence Starters	Example Using Your Prompt
Concession (C)	Finds common ground with the opponent; acknowledges that the opposing viewpoint has the right to an opinion. It shows fairness and maturity in reasoning.	Builds <i>ethos</i> —credibility and respect toward the opposing side.	- Granted, some may believe... - Admittedly, others might say... - It is true that... - While it may seem that...	Granted, some may believe that fairy tales inspire imagination and teach moral lessons to young girls.
Counterargument (CA) or Counterclaim (CC)	The opposing side's best argument, which challenges your position. It expresses an important point from the other side.	Strengthens your argument by showing awareness of multiple perspectives.	- Some may argue that... - Critics claim that... - Opponents of this view believe... - A common argument against this is...	Some may argue that the stories simply reflect traditional times and are harmless entertainment.
Refutation / Rebuttal (R)	The writer's direct response that finds the flaw in the counterargument and disproves or weakens the counterargument using logic or evidence.	Reaffirms your position and leads the reader back to your thesis.	- However... - Nevertheless... - Yet this view ignores... - On the contrary... - This argument fails to consider...	However, this view overlooks how repeated portrayals of passive heroines can subtly shape beliefs about gender roles and self-worth.

05:00