

TCAP Writing Pilot

TCAP/WA

DIRECTIONS

In a few moments, you will see a passage(s) and a prompt. You are to plan and write an essay about the passage(s) according to the instructions provided in the prompt. This activity will show how well you write. Express your thoughts clearly and make your writing interesting to the reader. Your essay will be scored as a rough draft, but you should watch for careless errors.

Before writing, spend some time reading the passage(s), thinking about the prompt, and planning your thoughts.

WRITE ONLY ON THE PROMPT AND PASSAGE(S) YOU ARE GIVEN.

The time you have for writing is 60 minutes.

**PROMPT K – GRADE 5 WRITING ASSESSMENT
TENNESSEE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (TCAP)
2012 PILOT TEST**

The following passages deal with preserving our forests.

“The Part of Good Citizens”

by Theodore Roosevelt, as quoted by Charles Lathrop Pack

A people without children would face a hopeless future; a country without trees is almost as helpless; forests which are so used that they cannot renew themselves will soon vanish, and with them all their benefits. When you help to preserve our forests or plant new ones you are acting the part of good citizens.

“The Part of Good Citizens,” by President Theodore Roosevelt. Public Domain.

from *The School Book of Forestry* (1922)

by Charles Lathrop Pack

Our forests, with their billions of trees, are the backbone of agriculture, the skeleton of lumbering, and the heart of industry. Even now, in spite of their depletion, they are the cream of our natural resources. They furnish wood for the nation, pasture for thousands of cattle and sheep, and water supply for countless cities and farms. They are the dominions¹ of wild life. Millions of birds, game animals, and fish live in the forests and the forest streams. The time is coming when our forests will be the greatest playgrounds of America. It is necessary that we preserve, protect, and expand our timberlands. By so doing we shall provide for the needs of future generations.

The forest is one of the most faithful friends of man. It provides him with materials to build homes. It furnishes fuel. It aids agriculture by preventing floods and storing the surplus rainfall in the soil for the use of farm crops. It supplies the foundation for all our railroads. It is the producer of fertile soils. It gives employment to millions of workmen. It is a resource which bountifully repays kind treatment. It is the best organized feature of the plant world. The forest is not merely a collection of different kinds of trees. It is a permanent asset which will yield large returns over long periods when properly managed.

Our forest fortune has been thoughtlessly squandered² by successive³ generations of spendthrifts.⁴ Fortunately, it is not too late to rebuild it through cooperative effort.

from *The School Book of Forestry* (1922), by Charles Lathrop Pack. Public Domain.

¹ **dominions:** lands which are controlled by something

² **squandered:** wasted

³ **successive:** following

⁴ **spendthrifts:** people who waste something

READ THIS WRITING PROMPT CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR WRITING.

School Project

Your principal has asked for suggestions for a class project to help the community. You think planting trees in your neighborhood would be an excellent project.

After reading the quotation by Theodore Roosevelt and the excerpt from *The School Book of Forestry*, write an essay to persuade your principal that planting trees is the best project for your school to adopt. Include information from both texts to write about the subject knowledgeably. Be certain to support your point of view with reasons and information from both of the texts provided. Also, remember to use correct grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing your essay.

You may use the space below for prewriting. However, only the lined pages of your answer document will be scored. You will have a time limit of 60 minutes.

This writing prompt must be returned with all test material.