

TCAP Writing Operational Test

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 J – GRADE 8 WRITING ASSESSMENT
TENNESSEE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (TCAP)
2013 OPERATIONAL TEST**

The following passage looks at some common household products that can also prove harmful.

Some Dangerous Household Products You Should Never Use Again
Many household products are more dangerous than you probably think.

There are just some things you would never do: ride your bike into oncoming traffic or walk alone in a deserted area at 3:00 a.m. Why? Because they are both dangerous. Still, in millions of households there are hazardous, toxic, and even cancer-causing chemicals just lying around with the intent of making life easier.

Alas, there's that deserted area again—or the truck straight ahead. Air fresheners, disinfectants, and cleaners found under your sink are more dangerous than you think. Mix bleach with ammonia, for example, and you've got a toxic fume cloud used by the military in WWI. And they weren't cleaning kitchens.

Here are some products you should ban from your home—forever.

Single-Use Plastic Bottles

Single-use plastic bottles are even worse [than plastic bottles with BPA] for leaching chemicals, especially when you add the heat of the sun (think about bottles left in your trunk) or the microwave. Aside from the fact that bottled water sold across state lines is not as regulated as tap water, the bottles themselves are spawning grounds for bacteria and are a source of needless waste. Each year, more than one million barrels of oil are used to manufacture the more than 25 billion single-use plastic water bottles sold in the United States. Choose a reusable, stainless steel or glass bottle instead.

Non-Stick Cookware

When non-stick pans were first introduced into American households in the 1960s, they were thought to be a godsend. Gone were the days of soaking pans for hours and scouring pots with steel wool. In the forty years since then, however, we've learned that the ease of cleaning comes at a steep price: the coating that makes Teflon pans non-stick releases toxic gasses that have been linked to cancer, organ failure, reproductive damage, and other harmful health effects when it heats up.

Everyday Cleaning Supplies

These routinely make the top ten lists of worst household offenders. They contain toxic chemicals that negatively affect every system in your body. All-purpose cleaners often contain ammonia, a strong irritant that has been linked to liver and kidney damage. Bleach is a powerful oxidizer, which can burn the skin and eyes. Another danger lies in oven cleaners, which can cause chemical burns and emit toxic fumes that harm the respiratory system.

Antibacterial Products

The widespread use of antibacterials has been shown to contribute to new strains of antibiotic-resistant “super bugs.” The Centers for Disease Control says that antibacterials may also interfere with immune system development in children.

Chemical Insecticides and Herbicides

Since the purpose of these products is to kill insects and other pests, you can be sure that many of them contain ingredients that are also harmful to humans. For example, the active ingredient in Round-Up—a popular weed killer—causes kidney damage and reproductive harm in mice. Cypermethrin, one of the active ingredients in the popular bug-killer Raid, is a known eye, skin and respiratory irritant and has negative effects on the central nervous system.

Source: alternet.org

READ THIS WRITING PROMPT CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR WRITING.

Harmful Products

Write an argumentative essay in which you delineate and evaluate the author’s specific claims about these household products, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient. Draw evidence from the passage to support your analysis. Introduce your claims, and organize your evidence logically. Support your claims with logical reasoning and relevant evidence from the passage. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in your response.

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.