***MATH WRITING PROMPTS***

You can use these writing prompts for writing practice in preparation for the spring TELPAS.

You have the option of choosing one of the two writing prompts listed for a two-week period and allow students to complete their compositions over the two weeks listed OR you can have the students write on a prompt a week, so that they complete two prompts in two weeks. How you grade the prompt is up to you; however, please remember the following guidelines for TELPAS writing from TEA:

* ESL/LEP students (including LEP waivered students) must have at least 2 of their five TELPAS writing samples from math, science, or social studies
* the compositions should be about a page in length
* the compositions should be written in the students’ own words, not copied or rely too heavily on a dictionary or thesaurus
* the compositions “should show the ability of the students to connect ideas and express themselves in English in an extended way”
* the actual TELPAS writing samples cannot show a teacher’s corrections or be polished through editing by peers, teachers, or parents
* the actual TELPAS writing samples cannot be assigned before February 18, 2013
* the actual TELPAS writing samples should not show brief, rushed, or incomplete writing
* the actual TELPAS writing samples cannot be worksheets, question/answer writing assignments or short-answer response formats.

Math Writing Prompt Schedule

**SUGGESTIONS:**

* Is math your favorite subject? If it is, why is math your favorite subject?

If math has never been your favorite subject, what is it about math that you do not like?

Guide the students through the thinking process:

SENTENCE FRAMES/ SENTENCE STARTERS:

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| NEW- COMER BEGINNER | BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE |
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Math is my favorite subject....

1. Based on what I have learned today
2. I like math because..
3. I like numbers....
4. I like to solve problems
5. I am going to be an .....and will use math...
6. I like money therefore I like math....
7. I like using the calculator...

Math is not my favorite subject....

1. I struggle understanding math
2. I never pass the math tests
3. I do not understand ..
4. I do not understand my teacher...
5. My teacher does not help me...
6. I do not know where to start
7. I like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ better than math...
8. Because my friends think I am not smart enough
9. I think I am not smart enough
10. I cannot read the problems
11. I do not understand the problems...
12. I cannot understand the problems..
13. I do not need to know math...
* **In what ways are adding and subtracting important to use in life? (Underlined words can be changed according to the objectives).**

Guide the students through the thinking process:

SENTENCE FRAMES/ SENTENCE STARTERS:

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| NEW- COMER BEGINNER | BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE |
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* Math is important to me:
1. Because I like it
2. Because I make good grades
3. Because I use it every day when I go to the store..
4. When I wake up and see the alarm clock...
5. When I buy presents....
6. When I buy things for me...
7. When I count my money...
8. When I cook with recipes...
9. Because I use it at work...
10. To check my pay stub
11. To figure out my tip
12. Because I want to pass TAKS
13. Because I want to graduate

SENTENCE FRAMES/ SENTENCE STARTERS:

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* Do you think boys or girls like math better? What makes you think so?

Guide the students through the thinking process:

SENTENCE FRAMES/ SENTENCE STARTERS:

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1. Boys like math better because...
2. Girls like math better because...
3. When I am in the Math class I see that boys...I see that girls....
4. The math teachers calls the boys more...calls the girls more....
5. Looking at the data chart on the wall...the boys score higher...the girls score higher...
6. Boys make higher grades in math...
7. Girls make higher grades in math...
8. In my math club there are more boys....there are more girls...
9. When both, girls and boys receive the same support....
* Write to another student explaining how he or she can get an A on his or her next math test.

Guide the students through the thinking process:

1. If you pay attention...
2. If you do your homework....your strategies...
3. When you take good notes...
4. When you ask questions....
5. When you come to school
6. When you study every day...
7. When you ask for clarification....for help...
8. When you practice...
9. When you go to tutorials...

SENTENCE FRAMES/ SENTENCE STARTERS:

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* What is the most important thing you learned this week in math class? Why is it important?

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* Why do you want to become a better math student?

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* What do you do when you are working on a word problem? Explain the steps that you take.

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* If you could change one thing about your math class, what would it be? Why do you think your class would be better if the change were made?

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* Write about at least five (5) times that you have used math outside of school, and talk about why you think it is important for students to learn about math.

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* What is the hardest thing to understand about math?

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* + Imagine that you are your math teacher. Explain four (4) things that you want your students to learn about math by the end of the school year.

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* + Why do you think people who are good at math are usually successful on their jobs?

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* If math could be a color and a shape, which color and which shape would it be? Explain why.

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* Write a letter to a student who will be taking this math class next year and give them some advice about this class.

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(Remember students’ writings can now be dated February 18 and after)

* Explain to your teacher why you think he or she should let your class play math games for one day every month.

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* How do you use math at home?

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