***SOCIAL STUDIES WRITING PROMPTS***

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

How you grade these 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.

**Social Studies Writing Prompt Schedule**

* Recently on the news, reports were given stating if America plans to continue to be a strong economic power in the world, its students must score higher on tests. What do you think America should do to get its students to do better in school?

Guide the students through the thinking process:

SENTENCE FRAMES/ SENTENCE STARTERS:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NEW- COMER BEGINNER | BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE |
| I want to pass my tests because | One reason that I don’t do well on tests is because |
|  |  |
|  |  |

* Write an article for the *Houston Chronicle* newspaper explaining why you think the United States should continue to get involved in wars in other countries.

Guide the students through the thinking process:

SENTENCE FRAMES/ SENTENCE STARTERS:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NEW- COMER BEGINNER | BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE |
| The United States remains strong because | The positive reasons for the US getting involved in wars in other countries are |
|  |  |
|  |  |

* What do you think is the most important technological change in the world today? Explain your answer.

Guide the students through the thinking process:

SENTENCE FRAMES/ SENTENCE STARTERS:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NEW- COMER BEGINNER | BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE |
| I use the Internet because | Using a computer affects my life because |
| In my country we use/don’t use computers because | I spend too much/not enough time on the computer |
|  |  |

* Why should America continue to be a member of the United Nations?

Guide the students through the thinking process:

The United Nations is important because

America plays a vital role as a member of the United Nations by

SENTENCE FRAMES/ SENTENCE STARTERS:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NEW- COMER BEGINNER | BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE |
| The United Nations is important because | The United Nations promotes world peace because |
|  |  |
|  |  |

* If you had the money and the ability to keep people from going hungry anywhere in the world, what would you do?

Guide the students through the thinking process:

SENTENCE FRAMES/ SENTENCE STARTERS:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NEW- COMER BEGINNER | BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE |
| If I had a lot of money, I would make hunger go away by  | The biggest cause of world hunger is |
|  |  |
|  |  |

* How does a country’s geography affect its culture?

Guide the students through the thinking process:

SENTENCE FRAMES/ SENTENCE STARTERS:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NEW- COMER BEGINNER | BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE |
| Geography is important to culture because | Geography affects culture in ways such as |
|  |  |
|  |  |

* If you were going to explore a new land across the ocean, what would you do to get hundreds of other people to leave their homes and move with you to the new country?

Guide the students through the thinking process:

SENTENCE FRAMES/ SENTENCE STARTERS:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NEW- COMER BEGINNER | BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

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

* February 1st is “National Freedom Day.” What does it mean to be free?

Guide the students through the thinking process:

SENTENCE FRAMES/ SENTENCE STARTERS:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NEW- COMER BEGINNER | BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE |
| A person is free when they | Freedom means  |
|  |  |
|  |  |