

**Problem:**  
 Trouble connecting  
 an abstract thought  
 to multiple texts?

**Solution:** Mental gymnastics  
 for building the mental muscles of  
 connections

Google: visual prompts



It's hard to wait.

# 11-Minute Essays

1. START WITH A PICTURE AND A TRUISM →

2. Use this structure →

## 11-Minute Essay

TRUISM

how it's true in a story

how it's true in a movie

how it's true in history

I wonder

3. Use these directions with your students. →

1. Copy the truism. (Change it if you can, to make it more true for you.)
2. Explain what it means.
3. Think of a book or story that shows how true it is. Indent. Name that story and tell how that truism is true in the book.
4. Think of a movie that shows how true it is. Indent. Name that movie and tell how that truism is true in the movie.
5. Think of a moment from history. Indent. Name that moment and tell how that truism is true in that moment in history.
6. What does all this make you wonder about the statement? About your future? Indent. Finish with "I wonder..." or "This makes me wonder..." or any other way.
7. Share.

4. Share...and Repeat.

Dante, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, was not very good at this on the 1<sup>st</sup> day. Then he got better. And better. faster

Kids learn when they hear the thoughts of other kids.

Day 1

Dante Viano  
 ELA-6  
 November 17, 2014

Why is it not interesting this quote  
 As the age progresses, do you experience  
 because this is hard

It's interesting to see what  
 the quote

At Winter Break

Day 2

Dante Viano  
 ELA-6  
 November 18, 2014

Supernatural Feelings

Even sad things are important.

In my that some that sad things that happened  
 are the most watched or personal possessions.

In the all the progressions, quotes  
 come out the original truisms that I like  
 which I'll never get it into one of my favorites.

When a family I have, some with their  
 will be gone if it is a holiday person I have  
 never not I would have want for that and  
 more about Winter I will still get of something  
 and things I will keep wonder if they are  
 The reason the holiday what it will be if  
 some without because I'll be sure I also  
 wonder what progress I will have and the sad things  
 come on some I hope I'll be prepared to know what the  
 day and time

Day 3

Dante Viano  
 ELA-6  
 November 19, 2014

What Effort Can Do

We can do amazing things if we really try  
 To me the more that I use get effort into  
 something we do, it can turn out to be amazing.

In the book *Dora The Explorer*, she  
 tries her best to find a way to go on the map  
 and at the end she gets to her destination.

Also in *Diary Of A Wimpy Kid*, Greg Heffley is  
 always trying to be cool but he gets embarrassed  
 sometimes and at the end it does not the way he  
 plans.

In the movie *Man of Steel*, which is  
 Superman, he is afraid that he will be  
 to the age he spent before he knew he is  
 what it is to be a hero and he has tried out to be  
 great to be saved the world.

The person has really helped themselves by  
 all. This shows that I can do anything if I put  
 effort into it and do the job that I want to do.  
 The people that I see getting what they want  
 do anything that it comes to them and does what they  
 like.

This makes me wonder if I can turn out  
 to be successful like the people I have looked up  
 to or maybe like I want to be a scientist.  
 The effort I put up to could help up to me.

Brought to you by  
 gretchen.bernabei@gmail.com

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PENSE ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Written Composition Score: 8  
 8 = Accomplished

"Good friends are like stars you can always see them but they are there."  
 In life, situations happen where we never know if our friends are truly there  
 but just like the stars we just have to look a little closer to see that sparkle  
 in the sky. I believe it's important to have a good friend because they  
 may know the answer to your questions and they help you in a time  
 of sorrow.

To begin with, I believe it is important to have a good friend because they  
 have the answer to your question. Take for example, the battle of  
 bunker hill. The United States have been losing battle after battle to the  
 British, the strongest army in the 18th century, and asked the question  
 "What do we need to defeat them?" One of the leaders who was a comrade  
 with the French said he could contact them and asked for their  
 help. On the day of the battle the French attacked the British by  
 surprise which helped the United States. This was the turning point  
 of the war but they couldn't have done it without the help  
 of the French, who was the answer they have been looking for.

Furthermore, I believe it is important to have a good friend because they  
 could help in a time of sorrow. Take the book "The Fault in our Stars" for  
 example. Hazel Grace has little time to live she meets a boy, Augustus  
 Waters, who shows her how to live life by focusing on present time  
 not by future time. The book tells that no matter what is  
 happening in the world around us we will always have a friend to be  
 there for us.

In conclusion, I believe it is important to have a good friend  
 because they may be the answer to your question in a time of sorrow.  
 Good friends are like stars, even if you can't see them that's the point.

Score 8  
 English II

Score 8  
 Grade 7

...ON  
 STAAR?  
 yes.

Dreaming is an essential mindset as it opens a portal for opportunity to rise  
 from a dull, unfulfilling life. It would build the possibility of a better  
 society with more idealistic perception of life, individuals many successfully strive  
 for a higher existence of ability, and diminish the metaphorical restraints referred  
 to as 'practicality' and 'reality'.

By 'dreaming big', people may live an improved life. In the book, *Artemis*,  
 socialism is the way of governing, and citizens' lives are planned for them, as this  
 was the norm. Unfortunately, Prometheus, a talented individual is assigned to the  
 House of Sweepers, even though he shows promise in innovation. Prometheus  
 stealthily works with his knowledge and when his actions are revealed, he runs  
 to the Forbidden Forest to live or self-governing life. This 'impulsive' action is  
 considered as impractical, and yet Prometheus builds a small safe haven where  
 he lives an ideal life. By conflicting with the norm and pursuing the ideal life,  
 Prometheus cherishes his happy ever after. Therefore, even though one may be  
 looked down upon for the mind's capability of reaching new heights, goodness  
 and happiness is possible.

Furthermore, by going beyond 'reality', discoveries and growth may arise.  
 Although during the 1500s, to travel to this 'New World' which was rather  
 mystically spoken of deemed unrealistic, England insisted on settling there to  
 their 'ideal' determination and perseverance. A nation arose from the previously  
 considered impossible, America. As unlikely as it may seem, there are many  
 and good outcomes from idealism.

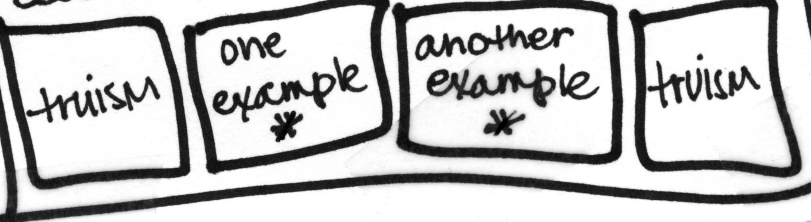
Individuals who place their beliefs high and who contemplate unique ideas  
 should not be discouraged by that some medical and scientific products will be  
 able to exceed our thoughts without feeling an inevitable failure. By being  
 independent with our imagination unrestrained to become a surging wave of  
 power to pushover barriers, we can expand our horizons. Indeed we can all create  
 and reside in a perfect world which is so desired by interdependently combining  
 our idealist perceptions to voyage into a new dimension, Utopia.

338 words

|         |                                     |                                      |         |
|---------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| opinion | one effect<br>(ex. from literature) | another effect<br>(ex. from history) | opinion |
|---------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|

This persuasive essay scored an 8 on the 2015 English II EOC.

One surefire STAAR structure



goo.gi/MLeKaN  
 by Prezi  
 the Briseños

Score 8  
 Eng. II

Score 8  
 Eng II

People in the world who are idealistic help bring change to the world and  
 create new things. Those who tend to dream big are the ones who are more  
 determined to set goals, it helps them work harder, and overall, in life, they are  
 happier. Therefore, an idealistic approach is more valuable in life.

First, people who have big dreams set goals for themselves to get their  
 overall goal. One example for this is myself, I have big dreams of being on  
 Broadway one day. My small goals include, finishing out high school and this time  
 I am in choir class, theater class, as well as, participating in theater production,  
 attending studio dance class, and taking voice lessons outside of school. After  
 finishing high school, I plan on attending college in New York to continue my arts  
 studies, meanwhile, becoming a member of actor's equity and auditioning for  
 shows to possibly be in. For big dreamers, setting small goals is vital to eventually  
 reaching their overall goal or else there is no way of reaching the ultimate goal.

Those who are more idealistic also work harder and are more determined.  
 For example, the dancer, Michaela DePrince, is a now a member of the Royal  
 Ballet Company. She was first known in the documentary, "First Position," where  
 she participated in the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP). Michaela does not fit  
 the image of the common ballet dancer, but if someone has the talent, then the  
 body doesn't matter as much. She has pointe classes everyday to make it to the  
 finals of the YAGP out millions of people around the world. Also, in this time,  
 Michaela had tore her tendon in her foot, which made it excruciatingly painful to  
 dance on pointe, but she fought through it and placed in the top 10 and that is how  
 she came to where she is today. Obviously, it takes real determination and hard  
 work for idealistic people to get to where they want to be and if they have it  
 enough, they will fight to get there.

In conclusion, it is plain to see that being idealistic is more valuable  
 because it makes people plan, and work hard to get what they ultimately want.  
 This does not count for artist, but for every person that dreams big whether they  
 are an inventor, doctor, scientist or a teacher. All big ideas or just a change start  
 with one idealistic person with a dream, a goal, and a plan to get there.

416 words

|         |                      |                             |         |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| opinion | example from my life | example from the real world | opinion |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------|

Who wants to fly, go to space, or even time travel? Those were  
 dreams that many of us desired, and perhaps those dreams might come  
 true. Dreaming big is better than being realistic because it can provide  
 ideas that can benefit the world technologically & socially as well as  
 ourselves.

Technology is an abundant part of humanity that fully welcome  
 those who dream to change the world and take on  
 the Wright brothers dreamed of flying before they invented the airplanes, people  
 thought it would a thousand years to have flying technology. What  
 we have now. Because of the Wright brothers accomplishment in  
 inventing airplanes, we are now able to fly far places fast. From dream  
 to reality, the Wright brothers had changed the world by increasing the  
 speed of transportation from one location to another.

Another reason dreaming big is better is to improve our society.  
 Take a look at Martin Luther King Jr. He dreamed of changing people's  
 thoughts on darker skinned people. Because of him, he was able to  
 reduce racism in which nowadays we no longer have separated schools  
 between different races, but everyone. Martin's popularity &  
 ideas of equality deserved him a national day for us to have a day  
 without school. Thank you Martin Luther King!

Lastly, dreaming big can motivate us to succeed & achieve our  
 dreams we might had dreamed of. For example, my uncle was little, he always  
 wanted to become an astronaut. After years of college and training, he  
 was finally able to become apart of Nasa, fulfilling his long life dream of  
 going to space.

It is true that dreams can come true. Many some of us might  
 invent something cool. Either way, dreaming big can help succeed in our  
 life because we, as the next generation, have the potential to shape  
 our society & even the world. "I had a dream," said Martin Luther King.

338 words

|         |                     |                     |         |
|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------|
| opinion | 1 way (ex. history) | 1 way (ex. my life) | opinion |
|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------|

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TEXTS IN OUR LIVES

- History
- Books
- Movies
- News
- Science
- Sports

For more info:  
 Reviving the Essay Lesson 5  
 Why We Must Run With Scissors, Lesson 23  
 Full-Size Academic Writing, Lesson 56  
 Lightning in a Bottle