

Evaluate Writing Prompts

Instructions: Below, you will find three typical writing prompts from college-level courses. For each:

- a) Read the prompt, and then underline or highlight the keywords and question words.
- b) Circle the words that help you narrow the scope of the assignment. If the prompt does not include information about scope, write down the questions you would need to ask the instructor.

Prompt One

For this course, you will write a 10-page research paper on some aspect of the American Civil War. The paper can be on any topic, whether social, political, historical, or artistic, as long as it occurred during the time period 1860 to 1865. You should seek to explain the details of the topic while also connecting it to the larger phenomenon of the Civil War.

Prompt Two

Compare and contrast Michelangelo's sculpture, *David*, with Donatello's sculpture of the same name. Why are the two sculptures so different?

Prompt Three

In a 2-3 page essay, explain the various possible causes of the 2008 financial collapse. In your opinion, what, if anything, should the American government do to prevent future collapses?