

## **TASC Test Writing Practice Items**

## 9 Informational Essay Sample Writing Prompt

Although rates vary with the economy, between 16 and 32 percent of high school students hold part-time jobs. Proponents of students in the workforce say that employment teaches time management and responsibility while providing income and useful experiences. Opponents say that mixing school and jobs adds stress and adult temptations to a student's life while reducing the time available for study and extracurricular activities. Is it possible to create a balance?

Read both texts and then write an informational essay detailing a plan that a high school student could use to balance school and a part-time job. Be sure to use information from both texts in your essay.

## Before you begin planning and writing, read the two texts:

- 1. Benefits of Part-time Work
- 2. Employment Disadvantages

As you read the texts, think about what details from the texts you might use in your essay. You may take notes or highlight the details as you read.

After reading the texts, create a plan for your essay. Think about ideas, facts, definitions, details, and other information and examples you want to use. Think about how you will introduce your topic and what the main topic will be for each paragraph.

## Now write your informational essay. Be sure to:

- Use information from the two texts so that your essay includes important details from both texts.
- Introduce the topic clearly, provide a focus, and organize information in a way that makes sense.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
- Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion.
- Clarify the relationship among ideas and concepts.
- Use clear language and vocabulary to inform about the topic.
- Provide a conclusion that follows the information presented.

Writing

