

Narrative

8. I start my day at five o'clock. I get up and prepare all my children's clothes. If there's shoes to shine, I do it in the morning. About seven o'clock I bathe the children. I leave the baby with the sitter and I go work. I work until four o'clock. When I get home, I scrub and clean and cook and do whatever I have to do. I try to make hot food for the kids to eat. Days are long and hard for a single parent.

Persuasive

9. Think about all the places your drinking water has been before you drink another drop. Most likely it has been treated with a variety of potent chemicals to remove bacteria and pollutants. Soon you may begin to feel the side disturbing effects of these treatments. Consider switching to filtered, distilled water.

Expository

10. If a choking person has fallen down, first turn him or her face up. Then knit together the fingers of both your hands and apply pressure with the heel of your bottom hand to the victim's abdomen.

Narrative

11. Our daughter was born with an underdeveloped brain. She was a beautiful little girl—at least to my husband and me—but her disabilities were severe. By the time she was two weeks old, we knew that she would never walk, talk, feed herself, or even understand the concept of mother and father. It's impossible to describe the effect her brief life had on us, suffice it to say that she was the purest experience of love and pain that we will ever have, that she changed us forever, and that we will never cease to mourn her death, even though we know that for her it was a triumphant passing.

Descriptive

12. The desert is not scarred by man's presence. It is still possible to be alone out there, to stare at your fingers and have no one ask why. It is possible to feel the cracks in the earth, to sense the enormity of space, to roll between the tips of your fingers, the dust of boulders gone to pieces.

Expository

13. The death penalty is one of the most ancient of all types of formal punishment for crime. In early criminal codes, death was the penalty for a wide range of offenses, such as kidnaping, certain types of theft, and witchcraft. Today in the United States, the death penalty is reserved for only the most serious of crimes--murder, kidnaping, and treason.

Persuasive

14. The death penalty is a prime example of man's inhumanity to man. The death penalty violates the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.