**Virginia Standards of Learning High School Writing CW Anchor Set**

*In the chart below you will find sample Writing SOL essays that are from the actual students. With your shoulder partner, look over the essays and using the SOL Persuasive Writing Rubric determine what score each essay should receive. In the box next to each essay, write the score you think it should receive as well as your justification for the score based on the rubric. Make sure that you use the language from the SOL Persuasive Writing Rubric when justifying and marking the areas for improvement.*

*Be prepared to share your stance with the class.*

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| **Anchor Paper #1**  **Prompt # 22**  While completing high school early may allow students to enter college and the  workforce early, it reduces the quality of education that students receive and  should therefore not be encouraged.  Many opportuntiies are available in high school that are not accessible to  students in college or the workforce. For example, high schools sports generally  allow a greater percentage of the student body to participate than do postsecondary  universities. While many sports teams are available in post-secondary  education, only a very small number of athletes qualify to participate.  In addition to increased access to extra-curricular activities, also better prepares  students for future endeavors in both college and the workforce. Many high school  clubs, such as the Future Farmers of America and the Future Business Leaders of  America, prepare students for vocations after hig school. Challenging classes, such  as Advanced Placement courses, teach students valuable study skills and allow  them to earn college credits for a much lower cost than universities provide.  While students who enter the workforce early may gain one more year of  paychecks than do students who remain in high school, the advantage is quickly  negated. Extra classes provide a superior education that allow students who  remain in high school to demand higher wages than those who graduate early. For  students who choose to remain in high school instead of attending a university  early, additional course credits allow them to accel above early high school  graduates.  In my opinion, the benefits of superior access to extra-curricular activities and  vocational training outweigh the benefits of an extra year of earning an  income. For these reasons, students should remain in high school and not  graduate early. | Score:  Justification:  Areas for Improvement: |
| **Anchor Paper #2:**  **Prompt #5**  What Thomas Jefferson wrote to "Determined never to be idel... It is wonderful  how much may be done if we are always doing." may mean something to him;  being his opinion. From what he's saying may be true, everyone can accomplish  something for what they have done, like for instance: to help others or to finish  something important.  My opinion to what he is saying might mean that everyone has their own  different way by accomplishing something on their own paste. Some people maybe  slow on what they do and get things done that way, and for some other people  maybe the opposite, they would know what they're doing and get things done  faster than others.  When we do something and getting it done, we do accomplished things way  more faster. The more we finish something, the more greater feeling we get in  ourselves like being proud. But no, that may not be true. Accomplishing something  may be hard for some other people.  People that get things done are usually the people that want to succeed on  their work, without slacking off. They would always stay on task and accomplished  with what they got to do. For those people that don't accomplish something on  time usually maybe really busy with many things and not getting the other things  finished.  For that it is always a good thing by accomplishing something more, because  we get to get things done and not having to worried about anything else. | Score:  Justification:  Areas for Improvement |
| **Anchor Paper #3:**  Prompt # 3  What do you think the driving age should be? the driving age should be 21 to  30 because there less at rick for accidents. I'm going to tell why it should be that  way.  One reason is high risks at dranking. For example, teen are the most ones that  drank and drive there for when u get older u cant handled that much alcohol in  your system, they don't do much when there older. That's why its safer for the  driving age to be 21 to 30.  Another reason is high rick of accidents. For example, teens go to party's and  they get drunk then they have the drive home and can cause an accident and not  even knowing they did cause there so drunk to realized it. That why this should let  teenagers drive as much.  Finial, going over the speed limit. When teens get their car they want to show it  off and how fast it can go. For example, speed race on the normal highways they  race them because they want to show that there car is better. That's why they  should not let teens on the road because they cause more accidents then other  groups of people.  They should raise the age but not to teens like to the 20ns or 30s age group  because they are lease involved with speeding, dranking, or having accidents. some  teens or safe at driving but most of then are not. That's why it should be in the  older group of people driving on the roads. | Score:  Justification:  Areas for Improvement |
| **Anchor Paper #4:**  Prompt # 3  Let's be honest, teenage accident rates and mortality rates have increased  dramatically over the years. No matter how much they try, parents and law  enforcers cannot protect teens all the time, especially from themselves. As a result,  the legislature has proposed an increased driving age from sixteen to eighteen to  try to alleviate these issues. I believe increasing the minimum driving age will help  protect our citizens by better preparing drivers, increasing safety for motorists, and  setting a higher level of maturity on the road.  Although it may seem cruel to teens, raising the minimum driving age will allow  drivers to become better prepared. In school drivers education classes are  wonderful, but I do not believe it should just be crammed into one semester. By  exposing teens to drivers education classes from the age of fifteen to eighteen,  they will retain more of the information. For example, a student that as skimmed by  in drivers education for one semester may encounter an unfamiliar road sign or  may not pay attention to posted road aids, which can result in a fatal crash. On the  other hand, a student who has been familiarized with different road signs and their  meanings over several years will be more likely to be ready to follow their specific  instructions.  Increased safety is another major concern that can be addressed with an  increased minimum driving age. The older teens become the more they realize that  they are not going to live forever. A younger driver is more likely to take risks that  endanger, not only their own life, but the lives of their passengers. Whereas an  older driver will understand and appreciate life more and not risk the emotional,  physical, and legal ramifications of a reckless accident. A younger driver just does  not understand how precious life is; they can hurt or kill someone else.  Most importantly, increasing the minimum driving age will ensure more maturity  on the road. It is undeniable that an eighteen year old is much more mature than a  sixteen year old. Therefore, the older driver will be ready to handle any situation  that could happen while driving. For example, if a sixteen year old driver was in a  minor accident, first, they would overreact and it would take time for the police  officer to calm them down. Secondly, if the officer did not call the driver's parents,  the teen is likely to lie about the situation to prevent being in trouble. However, an  older driver in the same scenario would remain calm and be responsible about the  accident. They would tell the truth to their parents, knowing that honesty really is  the best policy.  There is no disputing that safety on the roads needs to be a priority. Our young  citizens are hurting and killing themselves on the road. I support our legislatures  consideration of an increased driving age. I truly believe that it would allow drivers  to be better prepared, increase motorists' safety, and set a higher maturity level on  the road. We have to try to protect the future of America, even if it is from  themselves. | Score:  Justification:  Areas for Improvement |