**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 theworkforce early, it reduces the quality of education that students receive andshould therefore not be encouraged.Many opportuntiies are available in high school that are not accessible tostudents in college or the workforce. For example, high schools sports generallyallow a greater percentage of the student body to participate than do postsecondaryuniversities. While many sports teams are available in post-secondaryeducation, only a very small number of athletes qualify to participate.In addition to increased access to extra-curricular activities, also better preparesstudents for future endeavors in both college and the workforce. Many high schoolclubs, such as the Future Farmers of America and the Future Business Leaders ofAmerica, prepare students for vocations after hig school. Challenging classes, suchas Advanced Placement courses, teach students valuable study skills and allowthem to earn college credits for a much lower cost than universities provide.While students who enter the workforce early may gain one more year ofpaychecks than do students who remain in high school, the advantage is quicklynegated. Extra classes provide a superior education that allow students whoremain in high school to demand higher wages than those who graduate early. Forstudents who choose to remain in high school instead of attending a universityearly, additional course credits allow them to accel above early high schoolgraduates.In my opinion, the benefits of superior access to extra-curricular activities andvocational training outweigh the benefits of an extra year of earning anincome. For these reasons, students should remain in high school and notgraduate early. | Score:Justification:Areas for Improvement: |
| **Anchor Paper #2:****Prompt #5**What Thomas Jefferson wrote to "Determined never to be idel... It is wonderfulhow 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 accomplishsomething for what they have done, like for instance: to help others or to finishsomething important.My opinion to what he is saying might mean that everyone has their owndifferent way by accomplishing something on their own paste. Some people maybeslow on what they do and get things done that way, and for some other peoplemaybe the opposite, they would know what they're doing and get things donefaster than others.When we do something and getting it done, we do accomplished things waymore faster. The more we finish something, the more greater feeling we get inourselves like being proud. But no, that may not be true. Accomplishing somethingmay be hard for some other people.People that get things done are usually the people that want to succeed ontheir work, without slacking off. They would always stay on task and accomplishedwith what they got to do. For those people that don't accomplish something ontime usually maybe really busy with many things and not getting the other thingsfinished.For that it is always a good thing by accomplishing something more, becausewe get to get things done and not having to worried about anything else.   | Score:Justification:Areas for Improvement  |
| **Anchor Paper #3:** Prompt # 3What do you think the driving age should be? the driving age should be 21 to30 because there less at rick for accidents. I'm going to tell why it should be thatway.One reason is high risks at dranking. For example, teen are the most ones thatdrank and drive there for when u get older u cant handled that much alcohol inyour system, they don't do much when there older. That's why its safer for thedriving age to be 21 to 30.Another reason is high rick of accidents. For example, teens go to party's andthey get drunk then they have the drive home and can cause an accident and noteven knowing they did cause there so drunk to realized it. That why this should letteenagers drive as much.Finial, going over the speed limit. When teens get their car they want to show itoff and how fast it can go. For example, speed race on the normal highways theyrace them because they want to show that there car is better. That's why theyshould not let teens on the road because they cause more accidents then othergroups of people.They should raise the age but not to teens like to the 20ns or 30s age groupbecause they are lease involved with speeding, dranking, or having accidents. someteens or safe at driving but most of then are not. That's why it should be in theolder group of people driving on the roads. | Score:Justification:Areas for Improvement  |
| **Anchor Paper #4:** Prompt # 3Let's be honest, teenage accident rates and mortality rates have increaseddramatically over the years. No matter how much they try, parents and lawenforcers cannot protect teens all the time, especially from themselves. As a result,the legislature has proposed an increased driving age from sixteen to eighteen totry to alleviate these issues. I believe increasing the minimum driving age will helpprotect our citizens by better preparing drivers, increasing safety for motorists, andsetting a higher level of maturity on the road.Although it may seem cruel to teens, raising the minimum driving age will allowdrivers to become better prepared. In school drivers education classes arewonderful, but I do not believe it should just be crammed into one semester. Byexposing 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 byin drivers education for one semester may encounter an unfamiliar road sign ormay not pay attention to posted road aids, which can result in a fatal crash. On theother hand, a student who has been familiarized with different road signs and theirmeanings over several years will be more likely to be ready to follow their specificinstructions.Increased safety is another major concern that can be addressed with anincreased minimum driving age. The older teens become the more they realize thatthey are not going to live forever. A younger driver is more likely to take risks thatendanger, not only their own life, but the lives of their passengers. Whereas anolder driver will understand and appreciate life more and not risk the emotional,physical, and legal ramifications of a reckless accident. A younger driver just doesnot understand how precious life is; they can hurt or kill someone else.Most importantly, increasing the minimum driving age will ensure more maturityon the road. It is undeniable that an eighteen year old is much more mature than asixteen year old. Therefore, the older driver will be ready to handle any situationthat could happen while driving. For example, if a sixteen year old driver was in aminor accident, first, they would overreact and it would take time for the policeofficer 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, anolder driver in the same scenario would remain calm and be responsible about theaccident. They would tell the truth to their parents, knowing that honesty really isthe best policy.There is no disputing that safety on the roads needs to be a priority. Our youngcitizens are hurting and killing themselves on the road. I support our legislaturesconsideration of an increased driving age. I truly believe that it would allow driversto be better prepared, increase motorists' safety, and set a higher maturity level onthe road. We have to try to protect the future of America, even if it is fromthemselves. | Score:Justification:Areas for Improvement |