MISSION: STEM Essay Prompts 2026-2027

Grades K-2 Illustration, Caption, and Video Explanation

Non-Fiction Topics

1. Write about a real-life superhero who works in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM). Why do you admire this person? What do they do and why is their job important? Remember, not all superheroes wear capes!

Science-Fiction Topics

1. Imagine if everyone in the world had a superpower. What would the world look like? What would going to school or work be like?

2. Write your own superhero origin story beginning with a science experiment that goes wrong. This could be for your favorite superhero or for a brand-new superhero you made up.

Grades 3-5 Essay and Reference Page

Non-Fiction Topics

1. Some animals exhibit superpowers. For example, a gecko can walk straight up a glass wall and a diving bell spider can breathe while underwater. Select an animal that has a "superpower" and explain the science behind it. If humans could adopt the superpower, in what ways would it be useful?

2. Write about a real-life superhero who works in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM). Why do you admire this person? What do they do and why is their job important? Remember, not all superheroes wear capes!

Science-Fiction Topics

1. Super strength and invincibility sound awesome on paper, but what everyday issues could they potentially cause? Think of a profession where those qualities specifically could be troublesome.

2. Imagine you're a technology-based hero. Explain your unique gear and abilities using plausibly realistic concepts rather than vague comic book science.

Grades 6-8 Essay and Works Cited

Non-Fiction Topics

1. Science and technology have come a long way since many popular superheroes were first developed. Pick a superpower (or a superhero's tool) and write about how modern science, technology, and engineering have made it a reality (or close to a reality). What has been developed so far and what still needs to be modified? Use at least 2 reliable sources.

2. Research and write about a scientific breakthrough, discovery, or invention that interests you and may not be well-known yet. Why is it important? Have you ever encountered or used the discovery or invention? What does the future look like considering the discovery/invention? Use at least 2 reliable sources.

Science-Fiction Topics

1. Imagine you're a technology-based hero. Explain your unique gear and abilities using plausibly realistic concepts rather than vague comic book science.

2. Design a specialty gadget or vehicle for a hero with a disability who still wants to regularly fight crime or join large scale battles. What considerations need to be made for that specific disability?

Grades 9-12 Essay and Works Cited

Non-Fiction Topics

1. Science and technology have come a long way since many popular superheroes were first developed. Pick a superpower (or a superhero's tool) and write about how modern science, technology, and engineering have made it a reality (or close to a reality). What has been developed so far and what still needs to be modified? Use at least 2 reliable sources.

2. Research and write about a scientific breakthrough, discovery, or invention that interests you and may not be well-known yet. Why is it important? Have you ever encountered or used the discovery or invention? What does the future look like considering the discovery/invention? Use at least 2 reliable sources.

Science-Fiction Topics

1. You have been tasked with creating an AI humanoid to help battle evil. What specific abilities do you want the humanoid to possess? What precautions must you take while developing the humanoid? What would happen if the humanoid began displaying sinister behaviors? Use scientific reasoning when you can and provide any real-life examples of this that you have researched.

2. Design a specialty gadget or vehicle for a hero with a disability who still wants to regularly fight crime or join large scale battles. What considerations need to be made for that specific disability?