

### **SOL PROMPT #16**

Think about the benefits of working with a group or working alone. Which do you feel is more beneficial? Write to convince your teacher of your preference, either to work with a group or to work alone. Support your position with reasons and specific examples.

## **MODEL BODY PARAGRAPHS**

The social component of a group project is what makes learning enjoyable for many students. Moreover, collaboration and communication have become more necessary to secure a job and excel in most 21<sup>st</sup> century professions. Learning to interact with other people in order to successfully complete a task or solve a problem is an essential part of a high school experience; communication is even a requirement of the English curriculum. While teachers should not assume that every assignment is best completed in groups, they should aim to reinforce the communication skills that students must master before graduation by encouraging group work.

Some teachers may believe that group work is impractical in an English classroom. They believe that students need to be individually responsible for the grades that they earn. However, group work has more practical advantages than these teachers realize. Collaboration can actually increase student achievement. When a group of students is assigned a project, they first discuss ideas in order to formulate a plan. As they plan, they note the unique strengths that each group member contributes to the effort. They will ultimately combine these strengths into a final product that is exponentially better than what any group member could have produced independently.

## **STRATEGIES FOR WRITING SOLID BODY PARAGRAPHS**

### **HYPOTHETICAL INSTANCE**

Use when you want the reader to see a different point of view. (“Suppose that...” or “Imagine if...”)

### **CLARIFY A POSITION**

What needs to be explained?

What can be assumed?

### **THINK THROUGH A PROCESS**

Walk through a procedure from start to finish, defining special terms as needed.

### **DRAWING COMPARISONS**

Choose a similar situation to connect with what the reader can already understand or agree with.

### **CONDUCTING AN ANALYSIS**

Look at the individual parts of a complex problem before treating it as a whole.