**Prompt #1**

In the nineteenth century, Ralph Waldo Emerson, a philosopher, declared, “America is another name for opportunity.” Currently, in the twenty-first century, some people feel that they do not have chances for advancement, and 9.1% of the labor force is unemployed.

**Assignment:** What is your view or position on America being a land of “opportunity”? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your position on the issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, observations, studies, and/or experiences.

**Prompt #2**

Mark Twain, a writer, once remarked, “A man cannot be comfortable without his own approval.” However, many people are driven by the desire to gain approval from their peers, family members, and even strangers.

**Assignment:** Should people accept themselves for who they are, or should they look to others for approval? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your position on the issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, observations, studies, and/or experiences.

**Prompt #3**

The boxer Muhammad Ali noted that “Friendship is not something you learn in school. But if you haven’t learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven’t learned anything.”

**Assignment:** What is your view or position on the importance of friendship? Is the lesson of friendship more important than lessons on English, math, history, science, etc.? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your position on the issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, observations, studies, and/or experiences.