

# **TCAP Writing Operational Test**

## **TCAP/WA**

### **DIRECTIONS**

**In a few moments, you will see a passage(s) and a prompt. You are to plan and write an essay about the passage(s) according to the instructions provided in the prompt. This activity will show how well you write. Express your thoughts clearly and make your writing interesting to the reader. Your essay will be scored as a rough draft, but you should watch for careless errors.**

**Before writing, spend some time reading the passage(s), thinking about the prompt, and planning your thoughts.**

**WRITE ONLY ON THE PROMPT AND PASSAGE(S) YOU ARE GIVEN.**

**The time you have for writing is 60 minutes.**

**PROMPT J – GRADE 11 WRITING ASSESSMENT  
TENNESSEE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (TCAP)  
2013 OPERATIONAL TEST**

Following is a summary of the Tennessee Child Labor Act.

**CHILD LABOR ACT Title 50-5-101 – 115**

**My child is 15 and wants to work. Where do I get a work permit?**

The state of Tennessee does not require work permits. The minor needs to provide the prospective employer with a copy of one of the following documents as proof of age: birth certificate, driver license, state-issued ID, or passport.

**What is the age at which a child can go to work? Are there any restrictions?**

In Tennessee, a minor must be 14 years of age before he or she can work. Some of the restrictions for 14- and 15-year-old minors are:

**WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION:**

Can work no more than 3 hours per day  
Can work no more than 18 hours per week  
Can work no later than 7:00 p.m.

**WHEN SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION:**

Can work no more than 8 hours per day  
Can work no more than 40 hours per week  
Can work no later than 9:00 p.m.

**Breaks for minors under age 18:**

Any minor scheduled to work 6 hours must have a 30-minute rest or meal break—no exceptions.

**Are these restrictions the same for 16- and 17-year-olds?**

No. There are no limitations on the number of hours that 16- and 17-year-old minors work. They cannot be required to work during school hours; nor can they work past 10:00 p.m. on nights preceding school days (Sunday through Thursday nights), unless their parents or guardians sign a Parental Consent Form. The Parental Consent Form would allow them to work no later than 12:00 midnight three of those nights while school is in session.

The Child Labor Act prohibits minors, whether they are 14- to 15- or 16- to 17-year-olds, from employment in certain occupations.

---

Source: Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

---

Developed and published under contract with Tennessee State Department of Education, by Measurement Incorporated, 423 Morris Street, Durham, North Carolina, 27701. Copyright © 2013 by Tennessee State Department of Education. No part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of Tennessee State Department of Education.

**READ THIS WRITING PROMPT CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR WRITING.**

### **Child Labor**

**Write a letter to your legislator in which you either (1) support or (2) oppose the Tennessee Child Labor Act, which restricts the age at which a young person can work. Support your claim with valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence based on information in the passage.**

You may use the space below for prewriting. However, only the lined pages of your answer document will be scored. You will have a time limit of 60 minutes.

**This writing prompt must be returned with all test material.**