

## Oklahoma Bar Association

### Law Day 2024 Writing Prompts – *Voices of Democracy*

*The questions below are designed to accompany the 2019 Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies published by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Numbers in parentheses represent the specific objective from those standards. The standards can be found at <https://bit.ly/3yfGDd7>.*

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Standards</b> | <b>Prompt</b>  |
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| 1            | (1.1.1)(1.1.2)   | Think about a rule or law that you think is important. It could be a rule at home, at school or even a law in your community. Explain why this rule or law is important and what could happen if people did not follow it.   |
| 2            | (2.1.3)(2.1.5)   | Imagine your class is selecting a class president. Describe your ideas for improving your school and how your classmates can help. How will you get everyone excited to vote for you on election day?  |
| 3            | (3.3)            | Many voices have influenced Oklahoma’s history. Explain how the range of perspectives, cultures and influential people from Oklahoma's past and present have shaped the state. How can studying our state's history help us understand and respect different experiences and viewpoints?         |
| 4            | (4.1.1)          | What does it mean to be a responsible, active citizen in our democracy? Explain what you think the responsibilities of Oklahomans should be in local communities, the state of Oklahoma and tribal nations. Discuss ways to promote the voices of all people through active civic participation. |
| 5            | (5.5.3)          | As citizens of the United States, we have many responsibilities, including becoming informed voters, serving on juries, obeying laws, etc. Explain which duties you think are the most important and how they can ensure diverse voices are represented in our democracy.                        |
| 6            | (6.3.5, 6.3.6)   | Compare systems of government, including representative governments and authoritarian systems, and explain how they impact citizen participation and individual liberties. What role should diverse voices play in government?   |

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|   |                | <p>Imagine you live in a fictional country run by an absolute monarch. Describe a day in your life under this government. How do the ruler's decisions impact you and other citizens? Are there opportunities to make your voice heard? Now, imagine living in a direct democracy where every citizen votes directly on laws. Explain what life is like in this country. What are the benefits and challenges of citizens having a direct voice?</p>   |
| 7 | (7.3.7, 7.3.8) | <p>How do citizens' roles in selecting government officials and making laws change under different forms of government? Share your perspective on why citizen involvement and diverse voices are important components of a democratic system.</p> <p>Imagine there is an upcoming election. Describe how the election unfolds under two different political systems: a dictatorship, where only one candidate selected by the ruler is on the ballot, and a representative democracy, where any eligible citizen can run for office, and everyone has the right to vote. Compare what it's like to participate in the election as a voter under each system.</p>                         |
| 8 | (8.2, 8.3)     | <p>Examine central ideas from the Declaration of Independence and compare colonial and British advantages in the Revolutionary War. How did different groups like Loyalists, Patriots, Native Americans and free and enslaved African Americans view independence?</p> <p>Imagine you live in the American colonies right before the Revolutionary War. Write a journal entry describing your thoughts and feelings about declaring independence from Britain as a member of one of these groups: a Patriot, a Loyalist, a Native American or an enslaved African American. What factors, rights and freedoms are most important in your decision to support or oppose independence?</p> |

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| <p>High School</p> | <p>Oklahoma History (OKH.5)</p>  | <p>How did Oklahoma politically, socially, culturally and economically transform in the early decades after statehood? What diverse voices emerged and shaped the state during this dynamic period?</p> <p>Imagine you are living in Indian Territory as Oklahoma statehood is being debated. Write a journal entry from the perspective of a tribal member, an African American settler, a white homesteader or a female activist. How would statehood impact your rights and voice? What concerns do you have about joining Oklahoma Territory?</p>  |
|                    | <p>Sociology (S.5, S.6, S.8)</p> | <p>How have social groups, institutions and individual leaders impacted democratic participation and diverse voices throughout history? Explore how both individual and collective behaviors can affect and change society and why those changes are important to the preservation of democracy.</p> <p>Which has been most influential in shaping democracy throughout history: social groups, institutions or individual leaders? Make an argument for which you believe has had the biggest impact on expanding civic participation, incorporating diverse voices and preserving democracy. Support your claim with historical examples showing how your chosen factor affected democracy via individual or collective behaviors.</p> |
|                    | <p>U.S. Government (USG.5)</p>   | <p>Why is civic participation by citizens important in a constitutional democracy? Evaluate how being actively engaged in the political process helps preserve and influence our system of constitutional government.</p> <p>You have been charged with creating a new country. Explain how you will structure your new government and encourage active civic participation by citizens. What key rights and liberties will you guarantee for all people? How will you promote diverse voices being represented? What unique institutions, events or traditions could you establish to foster high voter involvement?</p>  |

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|  | <p>U.S. History (USH.1)</p>         | <p>How did the post-Civil War era transform America through civil rights struggles, immigrant experiences and Western settlement? How did these experiences both expand and restrict voices in the nation's democracy during this period?</p> <p>You've stumbled upon a mysterious time-travel portal that has transported you to the post-Civil War era in America. Once there, you meet three people: a former slave fighting for their civil rights, an immigrant arriving in America and a pioneer heading west to settle new lands. Explore the unique stories, hopes and challenges of these individuals and share how their experiences expand and/or restrict diverse voices in the nation's democracy.</p> |
|  | <p>World History (WH.3)</p>         | <p>How did the age of revolutions and imperialism spark political, economic and social transformations? Explain how events expanded and restricted voices and democratic participation globally during this period.</p> <p>Imagine you are living in the age of revolutions and imperialism. Write a journal entry from the perspective of someone living through a revolution. What political, economic and social transformations do you observe? How do they impact your rights and voice?</p>   |
|  | <p>World Human Geography (WG.4)</p> | <p>Discuss the evolution of a country's government that has become more democratic through the participation of the country's citizens. How have cooperation and conflict among groups influenced democracy?</p> <p>You are attending a global summit as a delegate trying to create a more democratic world. What democratic reforms does your country support or oppose? What historic disputes or conflicts shape your positions? What compromises or solutions will you propose to expand democracy globally while respecting national sovereignty and diverse perspectives?</p>  |

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