

## Writing ■ Respond to a prompt.

After answering the STRAP questions and using a graphic organizer to plan your response, it's time to begin writing. Make sure to use a tone and level of language appropriate to your topic and to your audience. Review the sample prompt and response that follow.

### Sample Expository Prompt

What could be done to make your community better? Could something be done to make it safer? Could there be more opportunities for young people? In an essay, explain one idea that you have to improve your community.

### Try It!

Answer the STRAP questions for this prompt. Remember that answering these questions will help you understand the prompt and form your response. (See page 194.)

### Sample Response

#### Beginning

The beginning paragraph states the thesis (underlined).

#### Make Way for Walking and Biking

You can drive from one end of New London to the other in 15 minutes. On the north end of town, there is a small shopping mall, plus a new grocery store. Our downtown, in the middle of New London, contains a few shops, restaurants, and the Crown Movie Theater. Our medical clinic, another grocery store, and a hardware store anchor the south end of town. What makes New London inconvenient is getting from one shopping area to another—unless you are driving a car. New London would be a better community if it were more accessible for pedestrians and cyclists.

Walking is difficult because there are very few continuous sidewalks. Some sidewalks end halfway down

a block. In order to continue, you have to walk across front lawns until you come across more sidewalk. If it's wet or muddy, you have to walk in the street. As silly as it sounds, there are parts of town with only one or two small sections of sidewalk on some blocks. If all homeowners were required to have sidewalks, New London would be a safer place to walk.

**Middle**

Each middle paragraph covers one main point.

Riding a bike is not any safer than walking. The streets in New London are very narrow, and many people park their cars on the street. Riding a bike through this obstacle course can be dangerous. Even experienced cyclists have been known to clip a parked car and crash. It would be impractical to include a bike lane because the streets are so narrow. But many cities have made old railroad paths into bike trails. This could work in New London because we have unused railroad tracks running through town.

**Ending**

The ending explains the importance of the topic.

We hear a lot about the value of cutting back on driving to save energy. That would certainly be possible if we didn't have to drive everywhere in town. Walking or biking would also give some of us more opportunity to get some exercise. Continuous sidewalks and a bike path would give us different ways to get around New London and clearly make our community a better place to live.



**Practice responding to an expository prompt.** Review the prompt you chose from page 194, reminding yourself of the STRAP questions and the graphic organizer you have created. Then write a response to the prompt in the amount of time your teacher gives you.