



# Halloween Activity: Should Halloween Be On a Saturday?

AP<sup>®</sup> English Language and Composition

## Activity Instructions

The two included activities (*attached*) can help students make connections between the skills they learn in AP Language and Composition and issues that are current and important to them.

One activity is formatted as an argument prompt, and the other as a synthesis prompt. Here are two ways to approach the activities:

- **Option 1:** Assign the argument or synthesis prompt.
- **Option 2:** Assign the argument prompt and then have students augment their own arguments by incorporating sources from the synthesis prompt. This approach would help students better understand that a synthesis argument should primarily represent their own argument rather than a recapitulation of others' arguments.

The College Board<sup>®</sup> AP Language and Composition rubrics can be used, respectively, to assess and provide feedback to students on their essays.



HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN



# Halloween Activity: Should Halloween Be On a Saturday?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Halloween Prompt: Argument

In 2018, the Halloween & Costume Association (HCA) created a petition on Change.org to move Halloween to the last Saturday in October. Since no federal laws establish the holiday, this change would be accomplished through a grassroots campaign, working through local officials who set policies and communicate with citizens.

*Because Halloween was originally celebrated the night before All Saints' Day, November 1st, most of the celebrations have traditionally fallen on October 31st. But, as with other traditions that have been adapted to current society, the Farmers' Almanac believes that in order to make Halloween (or at least the act of trick-or-treating) safer and more of a family fun day, it should be celebrated on the last Saturday in October, rather than October 31st.*

*Because no federal or state laws establish the celebration of Halloween, no laws need to be passed or amended to initiate this change. Instead, altering the observance to the last Saturday in October would be a grassroots campaign that could start with city and county councils, and perhaps even with school classrooms.*

**Consider** the benefits, disadvantages, and complexities of promoting a grassroots campaign to conduct Halloween trick-or-treating on the last Saturday of October rather than October 31. Then, **write** an argument in which you state your position on the issue and support your thesis with evidence and reasoning.

In your response you should do the following:

- **Provide** a clear, defensible thesis.
- **Select** and **use** evidence to develop and support your line of reasoning.
- **Explain** the relationship between your evidence and your thesis.





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## Consider All Angles

**For**

**Against**

**Qualifications**



### Money

**What** are the financial costs/benefits?

**How** might a person's wealth affect their view of this issue?



### Morality/Religion

**How** could this change support good choices?

**How** would people's beliefs affect or be affected by this decision?

**How** might morality/religion be a factor in addressing this issue?



### Education

**How** could the education of kids/adults be affected?

**How** might education be a factor in addressing this issue?



### Safety/Health

**How** would addressing this issue affect people's safety or health?

**How** might people's health affect their view of this issue?



### Society/Relationships

**How** could addressing this issue affect the way groups or individuals interact?

**How** might people's cultural or personal identity affect their view of this issue?



## Halloween Activity: Should Halloween Be On a Saturday?

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### Halloween Prompt: Synthesis

In 2018, the Halloween & Costume Association (HCA) created a petition on Change.org to move Halloween to the last Saturday in October. Since no federal laws establish the holiday, this change would be accomplished through a grassroots campaign, working through local officials who set policies and communicate with citizens.

Carefully read the six sources below. Then, write an essay that synthesizes material from at least three of the sources and develops your position on whether, or to what extent, a grassroots campaign to celebrate Halloween on the last Saturday of October should be encouraged.

**Source A—WIS News 10:**

“Should I trick-or-treat on Saturday or Sunday?”

**Source B—Heavy:**

“Petition to Change Halloween to Saturday Is Sadly, Unrealistic”

**Source C—Motherly:**

“There’s a petition to move Halloween to Saturdays—but would it really make it safer for kids?”

**Source D—AutoInsurance.org:**

“10 Reasons Halloween Should be Moved to Saturday [24 Years of Proof]”

**Source E—Best Places:**

“Halloween Deadliest Day”

**Source F—Oregon Live:**

“A lot of people want to change Halloween to the last Saturday of October—they are all wrong”

In your response you should do the following:

- **Respond** to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible position.
- **Select** and **use** evidence from at least three of the provided sources to support your line of reasoning. Indicate clearly the sources used through direct quotation, paraphrase, or summary. Sources may be cited as Source A, Source B, ect., or by using the description in parentheses.
- **Explain** how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- **Use** appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.