

# AP Rhetorical Analysis Prompts

J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur (1735-1813) was a French aristocrat who traveled widely in the American colonies and bought a farm in New York, where he settled for a time. In this passage from his 1782 collection of essays, *Letters from an American Farmer*, Crevecoeur defines Americans. In a well-organized essay, analyze the rhetorical strategies Crevecoeur uses to make his argument about colonial American society.

French writer Victor Hugo, author of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Les Misérables*, and other works, was banished by Napoleon III, emperor of France, for writings that were deemed critical of the government. In April of 1857, English poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote a letter (which she never mailed) imploring Napoleon III to pardon Hugo. Read the letter carefully and write a well-developed essay that analyzes the rhetorical strategies Browning uses to petition Napoleon.

In August 1995, environmental historian William Cronon published an essay in the *New York Times* in which he argued for the need to rethink the idea of wilderness in modern culture. Carefully read the following excerpt from Cronon's essay. Then, write a well-developed essay in which you analyze the choices Cronon makes to challenge our habitual ways of thinking about wilderness.

In 1997, then United States secretary of State Madeleine Albright gave the commencement speech to the graduating class of Mount Holyoke College, a women's college in Massachusetts. Read the following excerpt from her speech carefully. Then, write a well-developed essay in which you analyze the choices Albright makes to convey her message to the audience.