



UIL Ready Writing

A session for beginners

Hello!

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Why choose Ready Writing?

- Writing practice
- Platform for passion
- Unbiased feedback
- Risk taking
- Competition fun

Contest Overview by
Ruben Rodriguez,
Ready Writing State
Contest Director

What is the
contest like?

- Expository writing
- Prompts
- Rubric

Conference Number _____

Contestant Number _____

UIL Ready Writing Rubric

Evaluation criteria are listed in the order of importance. Circle score rating in each of the three major areas of *interest*, *organization*, and *correctness of style*, and check the column which best describes the quality in each of the sub-areas.

(60%) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

INTEREST: Writing exhibits originality of thought, analytical acuteness and overall coherence of exposition.

	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Perceptive ideas	_____	_____	_____	_____
Originality	_____	_____	_____	_____
Examples	_____	_____	_____	_____
Title	_____	_____	_____	_____

(30%) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

ORGANIZATION: Each paragraph develops one idea and contributes to an understanding of main idea or thesis.

	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Clear thesis	_____	_____	_____	_____
Well-developed paragraphs, focused on one idea	_____	_____	_____	_____
Transition	_____	_____	_____	_____
Thesis support	_____	_____	_____	_____
Composition clarity (as a whole)	_____	_____	_____	_____

(10%) 1 2 3

CORRECTNESS OF STYLE: Writing avoids errors in sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, word usage and spelling that hinder clear communication.

	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Punctuation	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sentence structure	_____	_____	_____	_____
Grammar	_____	_____	_____	_____
Word usage	_____	_____	_____	_____
Spelling	_____	_____	_____	_____

TOTAL SCORE: _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Have something to say that is worth saying because of its acuteness of analysis and its originality of thought. It depends next upon clarity and upon including specific details.

Clarity is the main goal for organization. The plan of the essay should be such that each part contributes to your thesis.

Avoid errors in sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, word usage, and spelling that hinder clear communication.

How do I
prepare?

- Read
- Read some more
- And, read some more after that



Ready Writing Strategy

- History
- Environment
- Language
- Politics



Let's practice

- <http://bit.ly/2MzL4Kf>

How should I
use my two
hours?

- Read and re-read prompts
- Prewrite
- Write the essay
- Proofread



Tips from a RW Judge

- Provocation versus evocation
- Development of ideas
- Voice
- Title
- Introduction
- Conclusion

How do I improve as a Ready Writer?

- Practice brainstorming
- Comparison with winners
- Mimicking effective writers
- You guessed it. READ.



State Winning Introductions

- What did these students do well?

“The Deceitful Feast”

A feast is being held in your honor. Decadent treats and filling meals splurge among the embroidered table cloth as your cup is filled to the brim with exquisite wine. Servants are at your disposition and everything goes with a sweep of your hand. You hold power, riches, and full authority. Yet something is missing. A want within you that gnaws at the insides of your hollow stomach. A want that cannot be satisfied by any feast in all of history. It is the want of simplicity. The pure and honest sensation of loving and living. This beautiful life beckons you to come forward and entices you with eternal happiness and a much desired peace. Many have been presented the opportunity to leave, to step down from their seat of power, for a more precious life. What makes man become so obsessed with power and having so much pride? What is hindering them from leaving their table of ecstasy? Ignorance. The serpent of ignorance constricting the mind of man and making him submissive to mundane desires. Desires such as gold and other tangible lies that have blemished the soul of man. The chains that hold him down to the table of his doom.

“The Modern Epidemic”

The Bubonic plague, most would agree, was perhaps the most devastating health crisis that man has ever had the misfortune to endure. An entire third of the European continent fell to the silent killer, and sadly the poor state of medicine in such undeveloped times was far from enough for rescue. Even worse, those affected were a generation far more ignorant than that of the present, and this ignorance caused their own downfall to worsen. Infected rats and public wells of tainted water spread the noxious disease to even greater lengths, making them one of the largest contributors to the stench of death in the air. This fact was all but unbeknownst to those men of the time, who became tragic prey to their own oblivious nature. Worse still were those who weaponized the plague in times of war, catapulting infected bodies over the walls of cities and camps with the hopes of weakening their foes by spreading more destruction. The unstoppable rampage of the plague was largely due to the actions of men themselves.

It is easy for the modern man to gaze upon such ignorance and laugh, thanking himself for being above such clueless behavior. However, in criticizing the speck in his neighbor’s eye, he failed to address the plank in his own. In his heart rests an even greater plague, one whose toll of victimhood dwarfs that of the infamous “black death” – the plague we call hatred. Just like the Bubonic plague, hatred does not think. Hatred does not remorse. It seeks only to infect, kill, and multiply; such is the way it has been since humans first graced this planet. Hatred only halts our steps and destroys our progress, and unless we can acknowledge its foreboding presence, it will only continue to do so.

Tips from the RW State Contest Director

- Don't be intimidated by state winning papers
- Writing is a process, and many of the students who place in Ready Writing have been working with Ready Writing for years.
- Many students who place at State tell Mr. Rodriguez that being a state finalist in Ready Writing isn't something they foresaw at the beginning of the school year.



Questions and Comments

- Comments from veteran coaches, coordinators, and students



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