

Preparing for the Ready Writing Contest

1) Contest Basics-

Self-Inventory-

2) The 3 Rs of Successful (W)riting-

3) “Totally like whatever, you know?” Analysis-

4) Tips On Using Your Two Hours-

5) Topic Practice/Analysis-

“In the 1890s, sports then in their infancy had been praised for developing the high moral outlook called sportsmanship. In less than a hundred years, sports had lost their honor, though not their glamour. Competition had enormously increased skill, and better nutrition, physical strength. Participants and spectators numbered by the millions; but amateurism was in decline and corruption was rife. Professionals cheated for money or by taking body enhancing drugs; champions committed rape and other violent crimes. When contests pitted together two national teams, one crowd of fans mobbed the other; riots, wounds, and deaths were the sportsmanship of the day. At the same time, without sports, colleges and universities would have lost their standing and alumni money. Sports were the last refuge of patriotism. On such occasions as the French victory of 1998 in soccer, the whole people’s enthusiasm led the leaders of opposite political parties to fraternize and declare that the event had reunited the nation. Soon after, it was discovered that the governors of the Olympic Games, also reborn in the Nineties, had taken bribes from the countries wanting to be hosts.”

- Jacques Barzun, *From Dawn to Decadence, 1500 to the Present: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life*, 2000

Title/Lead/Thesis