



Ready Writing

ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND JUNIOR HIGH EVALUATION SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read from the *Constitution and Contest Rules* or the *A+ Handbook* the instructions for evaluating the ready writing essays. Judges should read the paragraph prompts that are given to the contestants. The compositions are to be evaluated as to relative excellence in interest (50%), organization (35%) and correctness of style (15%). While judges are to consider all three elements in selecting the most effective compositions, they should weigh interest more than organization and organization more than correctness of style.

CONTESTANT NUMBER _____ **TITLE OF COMPOSITION** _____

CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS FOR THE CONTESTANT:

AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT:

Judge's signature _____



2014-15 A+ Ready Writing

INVITATIONAL

INSTRUCTIONS

Choose **one** of the following topics. Write the topic you have chosen at the top of your paper. Remember you should not use your real name or that of your school.

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES

Topic: *Giving 100% Effort*

Some people might say that in order to accomplish a difficult goal in life, a person has to give 100% effort. Write an essay where you explain what it means to give 100%. Also, explain an example where you gave something 100% effort. Did you achieve your goal? Why or why not?

Topic: *Being Invisible*

Imagine you have the super power to become invisible whenever you desire. Write a story explaining what you would do during that day with this super power. You may be as creative as you like.



2014-15 A+ Ready Writing

INVITATIONAL

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FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES

Topic: *Rewarded for Grades?* Some parents reward their children with money for good grades earned at school. The money is used as a motivator to do well. However, some parents do not believe their children should require money to be motivated to do their best. Should students be rewarded for doing well in school? Write an essay using specific examples to prove your opinion.

Topic: *Goals* Goals are important because they keep a person focused on achievement. Write a letter to yourself describing three goals you have for yourself. Include as much detail as you can about the importance of each goal and explain how you are going to achieve your goals.



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INVITATIONAL

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SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

Topic: *Perfect Day*

Write an essay explaining a perfect day. Make your perfect day one that could actually happen. Include as many details about your day as possible.

Topic: *New Law*

Think about a law that we do not currently have that could help people in some major way. Write an essay about this law and explain the good that it could do for society.



2014-15 A+ Ready Writing

FALL/WINTER DISTRICT

INSTRUCTIONS

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THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES

Topic: *Trying Again*

You might have heard the following saying, “If at first you do not succeed, try, try again.” Think of something you tried to do that did not work out the first try, but because you kept trying, you were able to succeed. Write a paper explaining what happened and what you learned from the experience.

Topic: *The Adventure of the Three Frogs*

Write a story entitled, “The Adventure of the Three Frogs.” Be creative about your story making sure to describe the frogs and the adventure they experience.



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FALL/WINTER DISTRICT

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FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES

Topic: *Lemonade from Lemons*

Not everything in life goes as planned. In order to persevere when this happens, a person might think about the following saying: "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Write an essay about a time in your life when you were given "lemons", but you were able to make "lemonade" out of the situation.

Topic: *Recycling*

Imagine your school does not have recycling. You have noticed how trash bins are routinely full of items that could be recycled. Write a persuasive letter to your principal to convince him or her of the importance of recycling so that recycling can become an option at your school.



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FALL/WINTER DISTRICT

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SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

Topic: *Maintaining Civility*

People can become passionate about defending their viewpoint on a controversial issue. In your opinion, how can civility be maintained in the process of defending a viewpoint? Write an essay in which you explain a method of maintaining civility while possessing a passionate opinion about an issue.

Topic: *Being Great*

Someone once said that, "You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great." Write an essay explaining what you think that quote means and apply it to your own life in some way.



2014-15 A+ Ready Writing

SPRING DISTRICT

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THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES

Topic: *Favorite Season*

What is your favorite season of the year? Describe a few of your favorite things about the season. You might think about the weather, the activities, the holidays, the colors, and the smells. In your essay, explain why this is your favorite season using all five of your senses in your descriptions.

Topic: *Snack Machine*

Pretend that your school has a newly installed snack in the main hallway. The snack machine offers candy, chips, and baked goods. Students are allowed to use the machine at lunch and after school. Some people believe the machine should be removed because it is unhealthy. Write a persuasive essay explaining your opinion about the snack machine making sure to give reasons for your ideas.



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FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES

Topic: *Overcoming a Wall*

Michael Jordan once said, "If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it." In your own opinion, explain what you think this quote means. Apply this quote to your life giving an example when you overcame some kind of difficulty.

Topic: *Facing a Fear*

Create a story whose main character has an unusual phobia (fear). Decide what this phobia will be, and make sure you include details about the phobia in your story. Create a scene that causes the character to face his or her fear.



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SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

Topic: *Going Places*

Dr. Seuss once said, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Think of something you have read that impacted your life in some way. Write an essay about that experience explaining how the book affected you.

Topic: *Community Service*

Your school principal is considering a new policy that would require students to complete ten hours of community service at the end of each school year. Write a persuasive letter to your principal stating your position about this new policy making sure to support your ideas with convincing reasons. *Do not include your real name or school name in your letter.*