

Contestant Number _____

Contestant Name _____
 (to be filled in after judging)

UIL A+ Ready Writing Evaluation Sheet: Elementary, Middle School, and Junior High

Evaluation criteria are listed in the order of importance. Write the number that indicates the quality in each of the sub-areas and tally the points.

(50%) _____/100

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

	<u>POOR</u>	<u>FAIR</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>EXCELLENT</u>
Perceptive ideas	_____/7	_____/13	_____/19	_____/25
Originality	_____/7	_____/13	_____/19	_____/25
Examples	_____/7	_____/13	_____/19	_____/25
Title	_____/7	_____/13	_____/19	_____/25

(35%) _____/70

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

	<u>POOR</u>	<u>FAIR</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>EXCELLENT</u>
Clear thesis	_____/3	_____/7	_____/11	_____/14
Well-developed paragraphs, focused on one idea	_____/3	_____/7	_____/11	_____/14
Transition	_____/3	_____/7	_____/11	_____/14
Thesis support	_____/3	_____/7	_____/11	_____/14
Composition clarity (as a whole)	_____/3	_____/7	_____/11	_____/14

(15%) _____/30

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

	<u>POOR</u>	<u>FAIR</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>EXCELLENT</u>
Punctuation	_____/1	_____/3	_____/5	_____/6
Sentence structure	_____/1	_____/3	_____/5	_____/6
Grammar	_____/1	_____/3	_____/5	_____/6
Word Usage	_____/1	_____/3	_____/5	_____/6
Spelling	_____/1	_____/3	_____/5	_____/6

TOTAL SCORE: _____/200

CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS FOR THE CONTESTANT:

Please read "Instructions for the Judges" for Ready Writing Writing before evaluating contestants' papers. 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.

AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT:

Judge's signature _____



2019-20 A+ Ready Writing

INVITATIONAL

INSTRUCTIONS

Choose **one** of the following topics. Write the topic you have chosen at the top of your paper. **You should also include an original, creative title for your paper.** Remember you should not use your real name or that of your school.

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES

Topic: *Pen Pals*

Imagine that your class is getting pen pals from another country. Write a letter to your pen pal describing what your typical day and school life are like. Remember not to include your actual name or the name of your school.

Topic: *Favorite Food*

Think about your favorite food to eat. Would you rather only eat that food all year long or not be able to eat that food for three years? Write an essay explaining your opinion.



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FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES

Topic: *Compromise*

It is important to be able to work well with others and to be able to find common ground. Write about a time when you sacrificed something you wanted to achieve compromise.

Topic: *Lost*

Write a story about a character searching for something that he or she lost. Make sure to develop your character and include details throughout the story.



2019-20 A+ Ready Writing

FALL/WINTER DISTRICT

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THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES

Topic: *Your Superpower*

"With great power comes great responsibility." This quote was made popular in the Spiderman comics. In an essay, choose a superpower and write about how you would use your superpower for good.

Topic: *The Lost Treasure*

Write a story about finding lost treasure. Be creative about your story and make sure to include interesting details.



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SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

Topic: *Listening to Thoughts*

Imagine a world where you could hear others' thoughts. Would this be a blessing or a curse? Write a story where a character possesses this power. Make sure to develop the character and use detail throughout.

Topic: *Greater Difficulty*

Think about a time when you faced a challenge that was more difficult than expected. Write an essay describing this experience and what you learned from it.



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FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES

Topic: *Failure*

The 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt, said, "It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed." What do you think this quote means? In an essay, describe how you interpret this quote and use your own life experiences as examples.

Topic: *The Future*

Imagine you somehow woke up one hundred years in the future. Write a story describing what the world looks like and describe what you would do with your life in the future.



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SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE

Topic: *Following the Crowd*

"Follow the crowd and you will never be followed by a crowd." What does this quote mean? Write an essay on how you interpret this quote using examples from your own life.

Topic: *Everyday Hero*

There are everyday heroes all around us. Write a letter to a past or present personal hero that describes why you look up to him or her and how you chose to emulate that person's behavior in your own life. Remember not to include your actual name or the name of your school.



2019-20 A+ Ready Writing

SPRING DISTRICT

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THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES

Topic: *Field Trip*

Imagine your teacher is letting your class choose a field trip. However, your classmates can't agree on where to go. Write a letter to the class detailing where you want to go on a field trip and explain to your classmates why they should support your idea. Remember you should not use your real name or that of your school.

Topic: *Family*

Professional tennis player Serena Williams said, "Tennis is just a game, family is forever." Write a paper that describes a time you spent with your family.



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FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES

Topic: *Learning*

Leonardo da Vinci stated that, "learning never exhausts the mind." Explain why you believe it is important to continue learning even if you are not being required to learn the topic.

Topic: *Uncertainty*

Think about a time when you were unsure about the next step you should take. In an essay, describe your experience and what you learned from it.



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SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

Topic: *Robotic Technology*

As technology advances, concerns are raised about the possible ramifications. Suppose the government plans on investing in new robotic technology. Write a letter that details your position on the government plan including specific arguments to why you believe the proposal is positive or negative. Remember you should not use your real name or that of your school.

Topic: *Art Influence*

People make art to express themselves, tell a story, or evoke an emotion. Write about a time when a work of art, whether it be a book, a movie, a painting, a poem, etc., influenced you and describe the impact that it had.