

Writing Benchmarks to be Administered During October 5-16, 2009

Kindergarten

Student will write first name at the top of unlined paper.

Student will draw a picture of him/herself. (15 minutes)

Using familiar words or environmental print, student will write at least one sentence about the drawing. (15 minutes)

Teacher will encourage student to use environmental print, but may not assist student during writing time.

Grade One

Materials needed: designated paper, apple web, pencil, washed apples cut in halves.

Write first and last name at the top of the paper.

Teacher will brainstorm with students using designated web.

Write topic sentence given by teacher: *Apples are good for you.*

Use senses to learn about your apple. (10 minutes)

Complete graphic organizer as class. (10 minutes)

Write two sentences to describe your apple. (15 minutes)

Teacher encourages use of word wall, but may not assist student during writing time.

Grade Two

The Life Cycle of a Butterfly:

Materials needed: designated paper, butterfly graphic organizer, pencil.

Write the topic sentence with the teacher: *The butterfly is a unique insect.*

Teacher encourages the use of word wall. (10 minutes)

Brainstorm with teacher to complete butterfly web.

Teacher will model one example of a complete sentence compiled by butterfly organizer.

Teacher will erase sentence prior to student writing. (5 minutes)

Teacher may not assist during student writing.

Student will write $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page. (15 minutes)

Grade Three

Writing Situation: Your teacher is absent and you have been asked to teach your class for a day.

Directions for Writing: Before you begin to write, think about what you would do if you were the teacher.

Now write a story about your day as the teacher.

Grade Four

Suppose that you woke up one morning as a grown-up.

Before you begin to write, think about what you would do, where you would go, and what you would wear.

Now write a story about your adventures on the day you woke up as a grown-up.

Grade Five

What if you invented a time machine that took you back to the age of the dinosaurs? How would you spend your day?

Before you begin to write, think about things that you might see or hear and think about the adventure you would experience.

Now write a story telling about what happened when you invented the time machine.

Grade Six

Everyone enjoys receiving a gift.

What is the best gift you ever received? Why was it so special?

Now explain in an essay what your favorite gift was and why it was so special. Support your reasons with examples and details.

Grade Seven

If you had to choose one season of the year as your favorite, which one would you choose?

Before you begin to write, think about the season you have chosen and why it is your favorite.

You might be thinking about the weather, certain activities in this season, or both.

Now write an essay in which you explain why this one season of the year is your favorite.

Support your ideas with examples and details.

Grade Eight

School is a big part of a young person's life. Different students enjoy different aspects of school: sports, classes, friends, activities, etc.

What do you like most about school, and why?

Now explain in an essay what you like about school and why you like it.

Support your ideas with examples and details.

Grade Nine/English I

Writing Situation: There is an epidemic of violent behavior and emotions in today's teenagers.

Many parents and researchers believe that violent video games, television and movies cause violent emotions and/or behavior in teenagers.

Do you agree or disagree with the opinion that violent media is the cause of violence in teenagers today?

Directions for Writing: Write an essay in which you persuade the reader to support your point of view. Support your position with specific reasons and examples.

Grade Ten/English II

Writing Situation: Because of budget concerns, school systems are trying to cut local costs. Many school systems are eliminating extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs, drama and music programs.

Do you agree or disagree with the opinion that schools should save money by cutting these types of programs?

Directions for Writing: Write a letter to your local school board chairperson in which you persuade him to support your point of view. Support your position with specific reasons and examples.

Grade Eleven/English III

Writing Situation: At the present time, young Americans volunteer to enlist for military service. To maintain our present military operations, more people may be needed.

Do you agree or disagree with the opinion that all Americans, both men and women, should be required to perform two years of military service?

Directions for Writing: Write an essay in which you persuade the reader to support your point of view. Support your position with specific reasons and examples.