

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 \_\_\_\_\_



## **A+ Ready Writing** **for Elementary, Middle School, and Junior High**

### **Instructions for the Judges**

#### **Instructions**

At some convenient time before the contest begins, the director shall discuss with the judges the criteria for evaluating the stories, making sure that they all have the same conception of those criteria and understand the relative importance to be accorded each. Each judge shall be given a copy of the evaluation sheet provided by the UIL. Judges should also read the Ready Writing topic sheets the contestants were given.

#### **Criteria**

The essays are to be evaluated as to relative excellence in interest (50%), organization (35%), and correctness of style (15%). Please make comments constructive and supportive. While judges are to consider all three elements in selecting the most effective stories, more weight should be given to interest than to organization, and to organization more than to correctness of style.

- (A) Interest depends primarily on perceptive ideas. It depends next upon originality and including specific examples, which individualize the story as an outgrowth of the writer's voice. The effectiveness of the title is also considered.
- (B) A well-organized story will present a clear thesis with well-developed paragraphs focused on the thesis. The use of transitions will also be examined as well as the effectiveness of support for the thesis. As a whole, the composition should be considered for clarity.
- (C) Grammatical correctness of style includes an examination of punctuation, sentence structure, grammar, word usage, and spelling.

#### **Completing Evaluation Sheets**

Before the results are announced, the judges shall prepare a written evaluation of each essay stating its good points and areas that could be improved. Comments need not be long, but they should be specific rather than general.

#### **Rating the compositions**

Judges should read the essays submitted and without marking on the essays, rank the essays in order of excellence: 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. Comments should be made on the evaluation sheets provided. The judges shall discuss the essays contending for a place, being permitted to alter their rankings as a result of the discussion. Judges are to reach a consensus on the rankings. There can be no ties in this contest.



# Writing Events

## JUDGE'S BALLOT

\_\_\_ CREATIVE WRITING

\_\_\_ READY WRITING

\_\_\_ EDITORIAL WRITING

### INSTRUCTIONS

Each judge should use a copy of this form to rank each contestant's entry. Refer to the *Constitution and Contest Rules* or Evaluation Sheet for the criteria used to evaluate each contest.

**SITE** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADE**    2      3      4      5      6      7      8

**CONTESTANT**

**JUDGE**

**NUMBER/CODE**

**TITLE OF COMPOSITION**

**RANK**

**PLACE WINNER\***

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

\* PLACE WINNER indicates the final ranking (first through sixth place) of the contestants if several judges evaluate the papers.

Judge's signature \_\_\_\_\_



# 2018-19 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:** *Scientific Discovery*

Write a story about a student who makes a scientific discovery during school. Make sure you provide details about how your character makes his or her discovery and what happens after that.

**Topic:** *Memories*

People often say the memories you make with the people you love will stay with you forever. Think about the good times you have had with your friends or family. Write an essay that explains your favorite memory with your friends or family.



# 2018-19 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.

### FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES

**Topic:** *New School Subject*

You might have wondered at some point in your life why a subject in school is useful. Imagine you are in charge of creating a new subject in school for people your age. Write an essay describing your new subject and why it's useful enough for it to be taught in school.

**Topic:** *Volunteering*

There are lots of ways in life to volunteer and help others, even when it does not give you any reward. Think about the things you can do to help others and write an essay about the importance of helping others using specific examples to support your ideas.



# 2018-19 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.

### SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

**Topic:** *Cell Phone Age*

People often say that kids these days are too interested in computers and cell phones. Imagine that a Texas law might be enacted with a requirement that you must be 16 years old to have a cell phone. Write a letter persuading the governor of Texas that this law would be good or bad for people in Texas. Be sure not to include your name or school in the letter.

**Topic:** *Resolving Conflict*

Think about a time when there was a conflict between two or more people in your life and you were caught in the middle of their problem. Write an essay explaining what was difficult about the situation and how you tried to help resolve it. Make sure not to include your name.



# 2018-19 A+ Ready Writing

## FALL/WINTER DISTRICT

### 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:** *Trip to Another Planet* Imagine you could journey to another planet. Think about what the planet would look like, what the people would be like, and what there is to do on the planet. Then, write a story about your trip to another planet being as creative as you would like.

**Topic:** *Favorite Food* You probably have eaten something at some point in your life and always remembered how good it tasted. Write an essay that describes the experience of eating the best food you have ever tried.



# 2018-19 A+ Ready Writing

## FALL/WINTER DISTRICT

### 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.

### FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES

**Topic:** *A New Place to Live*

Imagine you did not live in Texas. Think about where in the United States or in the world that you would like to live. Then, write an essay about where you would live if it was not in Texas and the reasons for your choice.

**Topic:** *Outdoor Activity*

There are lots of ways to spend time outdoors. Think about your favorite way. Then, write an essay describing the activity and explaining why it is your favorite.





# 2018-19 A+ Ready Writing

## FALL/WINTER DISTRICT

### 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.

### SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

**Topic:** *Balancing Values*

A common debate in government is how to balance freedom, order, and equality. Think about each of those values, and then write an essay to persuade someone that either freedom, order, or equality is most important.

**Topic:** *Interesting Creation*

You have probably created something during your life, whether it was art, an invention, or something else. Think about everything you have created and write an essay describing the most interesting thing you have ever made and tell what prompted you to create.



# 2018-19 A+ Ready Writing

## SPRING DISTRICT

### 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:** *Interesting Family Member*

You often know your family better than you know most other people. Write an essay about an interesting family member explaining who your family member is and describe what makes him or her interesting.

**Topic:** *Future Job*

Imagine that your job as an adult could be anything you wanted. Write an essay about what your job would be, why you would pick it, and what all you would do in that job.



# 2018-19 A+ Ready Writing

## SPRING DISTRICT

### 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.

### FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES

**Topic:** *Experiencing Failure*      At some point in your life, you have probably failed at something. Write an essay about a time you experienced failure and tell how that experience affected you, positively or negatively.

**Topic:** *Running a Company*      Imagine that you were in charge of a major company. Write an essay that tells what company you would run, what might be fun or challenging about running that company, and what you would do for the company.



# 2018-19 A+ Ready Writing

## SPRING DISTRICT

### 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.

### SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

**Topic:** *Soda Ban*

Imagine you have just learned that the city council where you live is considering banning soda from restaurants and schools. Think about the potential advantages and disadvantages of this decision. Then, write a letter to the city council persuading them of your opinion. Make sure not to include your name or school in the letter.

**Topic:** *Real World Experience*

Think about a time when something you learned in school was useful for something in the “real world.” Write an essay describing the experience and how the knowledge learned in school helped you in some way.