



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 _____



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 _____



2015-16 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: *The Seasons*



Think about your favorite season of the year. Would you rather have your favorite season all year long, or would you like to experience all the different seasons? Write an essay explaining your opinion.

Topic: *Sea Journey*

Write a story entitled, "My Journey to the Bottom of the Sea." Be creative about what happened on your journey.



2015-16 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: *Favorite Game*

Think about your favorite game to play. Next, write a letter (without using your real name) describing the game and explaining the rules to someone who has never played before.

Topic: *Three Words*

Think about who you are and what is important to you. Next, choose three words to describe yourself. In an essay, explain how those three words describe who you are.



2015-16 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: *Election Issues*

What do you think are the most important issues in this election and why? Write an essay explaining your opinion using specific details to support your ideas.

Topic: *Good Ideas and True Innovation*

Margaret Heffernan, an international businesswoman and writer, once said, "For good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument and debate." Write an essay explaining what her quote means and include your opinion about her quotation.



2015-16 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. Remember you should not use your real name or that of your school.

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES

Topic: *Different Strengths*

No two people on the Earth are the same. We all have different strengths. Think about something you are good at doing. Write an essay explaining what you are good at and give an example when you used that strength in a positive way.

Topic: *Stormy Weather*



Stormy weather can be frightening and unpredictable, but it can also be interesting and exciting depending on your perspective. Write a story about a time when the weather made you feel scared or excited.



2015-16 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. Remember you should not use your real name or that of your school.

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES

Topic: *Teamwork*

Teamwork is an important part of many professions. Think about a profession that heavily relies on teamwork such as firefighting, medicine, or teaching. Write an essay explaining the importance of teamwork for that profession.

Topic: *Having Fun*

Imagine there were no video games or television for one week. Think of some activities you could do besides playing video games or watching television. Write an essay about the kinds of things you would do for fun.



2015-16 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. Remember you should not use your real name or that of your school.

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

Topic: *Optimistic
Opportunity*

Winston Churchill once said, "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." Think carefully about the benefits of optimism. Write an essay explaining the importance of finding opportunity in a difficulty.

Topic: *Learning from
Failure*

The lessons we learn from failure can sometimes be fundamental to our success. Think about a time in your life when you failed at something but were ultimately able to grow from the experience. Write an essay about what happened and what you learned.



2015-16 A+ Ready Writing

SPRING DISTRICT

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: *Future Job*

There are many types of jobs available to make a living. Some people help others or animals like veterinarians, teachers, or doctors. Others create things like artists, bakers, or builders. Think about the kind of job you would like in the future. Write an essay explaining why you would like this job.

Topic: *Practice Makes Perfect*



There are many activities in life that require practice. Think about your own life. What is an activity you have practiced at to become better? Write an essay explaining this activity, and include your opinion about the importance of practicing.



2015-16 A+ Ready Writing

SPRING DISTRICT

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: *Magical Spell*

If you could create a magical spell, what would the purpose of the spell be? Write an essay about why you created the spell and how you would use it.

Topic: *Challenge and Change*

Someone once said, "If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you." Write an essay in response to this quote. Do you agree or disagree with the quote? Explain your opinion using specific examples to support your ideas.



2015-16 A+ Ready Writing

SPRING DISTRICT

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: *Challenging an Idea*

Think about a time when you challenged a belief or idea. Write an essay about the cause of your action to challenge and explain whether you would act in the same way or not given a second chance.

Topic: *Power of a Thought*

Dale Carnegie, a writer and lecturer, once said, "Remember, happiness doesn't depend upon who you are or what you have; it depends solely on what you think." Think about the power thoughts have over a person. Write an essay explaining the importance of thoughts and how they can influence a person's behavior.