



English Language Arts Viking Scholar Award

Requirements

Students must provide TWO writing samples: an essay and a creative writing piece. The quality of thought, maturity, originality, and technical skills will be considered.

Essay (Informative/Explanatory)

Respond to the following prompt using Standard English conventions: As a student, you have had many experiences in schools and probably have some opinions about what a good school would look like. You might consider such things as the school campus, type of school, work load, teachers, athletics, and other factors. Write an essay explaining what makes a good school, using facts as well as examples from your own experience and those of people you know.

Creative Writing (Short Story, Poem, Drama, etc.)

Write a creative piece on a topic of your own choice, in a style of your own choice. Use the attached rubric as a guide. Please keep the piece at a length of 6 pages or less.

Please submit both essays together. Essays should be typewritten, in a standard font, in a standard size text. Make sure the folder you submit them in has your name on it.

Your portfolio is due to the Main Office by 3:00pm on February 25th.

Creative Writing Rubric: Criteria for Grading Creative Writing

Please fill in the self-assessment section on the bottom before handing in this assignment

	A	B	C	D / F
Meaning/Content: the extent to which the assignment exhibits sound understanding/interpretation/analysis				
Story Structure	Establishes strong plot/setting/character/pt. of view	Establishes plot/setting/character/pt. of view	Some elements of story structure; little blending of dialogue and narration	Few/no story structure elements present
Characterization	Develops complex characters through dialogue, narration and action	Develops characters through dialogue, narration and action	Some character development	Characters are not developed

Development: the extent to which ideas are elaborated, using specific and relevant evidence				
Ideas	Develops ideas clearly and fully; uses a wide range of relevant details	Develops ideas clearly; uses relevant details	Develops ideas briefly; uses some detail	Uses incomplete or undeveloped details

Organization: the extent to which the assignment exhibits direction, shape, and coherence				
Designing Organization	Maintains a clear focus; exhibits a logical, coherent structure through approp. transitions	Maintains a clear focus; exhibits a logical sequence of ideas through appropriate transitions	Establishes but does not always maintain an appropriate focus; some inconsistencies in sequence of ideas	Lacks an appropriate focus, but suggests some organization
Specific Assignment Directions	Exceeds all requirements specified for this assignment	Meets all requirements specified for this assignment	Meets some of the requirements specified for this assignment	Meets few/no requirements specified for this assignment

Language Use: the extent to which the assignment reveals an awareness of audience and purpose				
Description	Creative, concrete language; uses literary devices and rich sensory detail	Assignment uses concrete language, literary devices and sensory detail	Some use of concrete language, literary devices, and sensory detail in assignment	Little use of concrete language, literary devices or sensory detail in assignment
Word Choice	Uses sophisticated precise vocabulary	Effective word choices	Some effective word choices	Few effective word choices
Sentence Variety	Well-varied sentence structure throughout	Good sentence structure and variety	Occasional use of sentence variety	Little sentence variety
Voice/Sense of Audience	Unique voice; strong sense of audience	Evident awareness of voice and audience	Some awareness of voice and audience	Mechanical/unsuitable voice; unaware of aud.

Conventions: the extent to which the assignments exhibits conventional grammar/spelling/word usage				
Grammar/Punctuation	Smooth, fluid error-free punct./grammar	Mostly correct grammar; errors do not interfere with communication	Errors occasionally interfere with communication; verb tense errors	Grammatical errors are awkward and interfere with communication
Spelling and Word Usage	Correct spelling; error-free word usage	Mostly correct spelling and word usage	Errors in spelling and word usage	Misspelled and misused words throughout
Overall assignment presentation	MLA heading; unique title; professional presentation	MLA heading; appropriate title; neat presentation	Incomplete heading; average title/presentation	No heading/title; no attention to presentation

Self-Assessment: The best aspect of this assignment is: _____

One aspect of this assignment that may require further revision is: _____

The grade I would give this assignment is: _____