The Writing Essentials

(every student must be able to show this is true)

PART ONE

STEPS TO FOLLOW:

1. I will email you a document that outlines the goals I have listed below.  For each of the goals...

* For an A, paste in two examples from your writing this year.
* For a B, paste in one.
* Do not use the same paper twice under any one category.
* **For your work, use a distinct font that is clearly different from the form**

2. This is a “draft” round, so you won’t lose points if you are wrong or if you think you don’t quite understand how to do some of these, but you should reflect on the goal no matter what.  What do you understand?  What do you think you would need to know to do this well?

3. When you are done, print the completed document that I emailed you. If you bring a laptop or tablet to school, you can keep the document there & share it with me.

I consistently…

* Write a clear intro with a creative hook
* Write clear, logical, insightful theses
* Integrate all quotations into text (introduce & punctuate accurately)
* Use accurate, relevant, sufficient and convincing evidence
* Analyze the language of the text (this means focusing a discussion of word choice and syntax in a passage where it is found in order to explain its meaning and possibly its effect.
* Write and order paragraphs in a way that builds my argument
* Conclude with an element of discovery or surprise (a genuine “so what?”)
* Write with some voice: Parallelism, rhetorical questions, motion picture verbs, sentence length variety
* Make deliberate and effective use of occasional sentence errors
* Use colons, semicolons, and dashes effectively

The Honors Essay Essentials (as above, plus)

* Use quotations elegantly and accurately throughout: flow quotes!
* Discuss alternate points of view/interpretations effectively
* Analyze unusual or subtle evidence

Creative Writing Goals

* uses compression of language (getting rid of “to be” verbs, passive constructions, excess adjectives and adverbs; uses strong verbs and nouns)
* has a consistent verb tense that suits the purpose
* contains concrete, precise, nuanced, relevant description and detail; (shows rather than tells)
* has a *consistent*, distinctive voice (appropriate to the occasion)
* uses syntax and sentence structure to produce a desired effect
* contains believable dialogue that contains greater significance than it appears to; allows dialogue to speak for itself; dialogue captures persona/character
* has a quirkiness (*has language that surprises and delights…)*
* builds deliberately towards a climax (though it may be subtle) without superfluous details or action
* includes a revelation (or perhaps a so what)
* includes figurative language
* includes imagery

SAMPLE RESPONSE

For each of these, you need to prove that you have met the goal.

Writing assignment: pg # & paragraph:

(this is where you put the page and where on the page your example came from)

Great Gatsby Essay, 3, 5

The word “beat” is used to describe Americans.  “Beat” can be used as in heartbeat, meaning to live on, or ‘beat up,’ as in fight.

Goodbye Columbus Essay, 1, 2

The word choice “obey” as opposed to ‘agree’ implies that Neil has no voice in their relationship.  “Obey” is an action a pet does, as opposed to a human.

On this skill I…

Exceed              Meet        Approach          Just Begin

(just circle one of these)

Meeting the goal because…

(write why you circled what you circled.  This should be as long or as short as it needs to be.  You can also use this space to explain confusion)

I analyze each word choice that the author makes and attempt to explain how it relates to and advances my thesis.  Also, I make interesting  and insightful claims about the quotes, although they are not always true. ☺

**The Essay Essentials**

**(every student must be able to show this is true)**

YOUR NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I consistently…

Write a clear intro with a creative hook

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

Write clear, logical, insightful theses

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

Integrate all quotations into text (introduce & punctuate accurately)

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

Use accurate, relevant, sufficient and convincing evidence

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

Analyze an author’s language

(This means you broke down the author’s word choice and showed how it adds meaning to the text)

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

Order paragraphs in a way that builds my argument

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

Conclude with an element of discovery or surprise (a genuine “so what?”)

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

Write with some voice: parallelism, rhetorical questions, motion picture verbs, sentence length variety

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

Make deliberate and effective use of occasional sentence errors

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

Use colons, semicolons and dashes effectively

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

My main writing goals for the end of the year (these should be directly connected to the standards above) and how I might meet them:

**The Honors Essay Essentials (as above, plus)**

Use quotations elegantly and accurately throughout (flow quotes!)

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

Discuss alternate points of view/interpretations effectively

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

Analyze unusual or subtle evidence

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

**My creative writing also….**

**uses compression of language (getting rid of “to be” verbs, passive constructions, excess adjectives and adverbs; uses strong verbs and nouns)**

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

**has a consistent verb tense that suits the purpose**

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

**contains concrete, precise, nuanced, relevant description and detail; (shows rather than tells)**

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

**has a consistent, distinctive voice (appropriate to the occasion)**

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

**uses syntax and sentence structure to produce a desired effect**

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

**contains believable dialogue that contains greater significance than it appears to; allows**

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

**dialogue to speak for itself; dialogue captures persona/character**

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

**has a quirkiness (has language that surprises and delights…)**

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

**builds deliberately towards a climax (though it may be subtle) without superfluous details or action**

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

**includes a revelation (or perhaps a “so what”)**

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

**includes figurative language**

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…

**includes imagery**

Where I accomplished this (writing assignment, pg # & paragraph):

On this skill I…

Exceed          Meet        Approach          Just Begin

Meeting the goal because…