

SESSION ONE

NEVADA STATE PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION IN WRITING GRADE SEVEN, FIRST PRACTICE PROMPT

We recommend this prompt be assigned and assessed in early spring of students' seventh grade year.

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS AND EXAMINATION TOPIC FOR SESSION ONE

Please follow along as your teacher reads the instructions for the writing test. You may not have access to the materials in your desk, backpacks, pockets, or any other personal items during the testing session.

STEP 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE ASSESSMENT

You will be participating in a writing assessment. Teachers trained in the evaluation of writing will identify the strengths and weaknesses in your paper and will look for these traits:

- Clear, interesting **ideas** and the development of those ideas
- Effective **organization**
- Strong **word choice** that contributes to a strong **voice**
- **Varied sentences** and correct **conventions** such as grammar, capitalization, punctuation, usage, spelling, sentence structure, and paragraphing.

Your paper will receive a score based on these writing traits.

You will do all of your writing during the two 35-minute writing sessions here at school.

STEP 2: PREWRITING

You will be asked to write on the following topic:

PROMPT

Friendships are important to middle school students. Write a definition of what your friends mean to you and be sure to include examples.

Begin by thinking about what you want to write. You may use the scratch paper on your desk to make notes, an outline, a cluster, or to write down ideas in any way that will help you. As soon as you feel ready, begin writing your rough draft.

STEP 3: WRITING THE ROUGH DRAFT

Write your rough draft on the scratch paper on your desk. Use a pencil so that you can make changes easily. You must write on the prompt you were given. **If you do not write on the assigned prompt or if the content of your writing sample is judged to be objectionable or obscene, your paper will not be scored. Writing that is too short - two or three sentences - also will not receive a score.**

Remember that your final copy will need to fit on one page of the answer document.

SESSION TWO

NEVADA STATE PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION IN WRITING GRADE SEVEN, FIRST PRACTICE PROMPT

We recommend this prompt be assigned and assessed in early spring of students' seventh grade year.

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS AND EXAMINATION TOPIC FOR SESSION TWO

Please follow along as your teacher reads the instructions for the writing test. Remember, you may not have access to the materials in your desk, backpacks, pockets, or any other personal items during the testing session.

You should now have in front of you:

- this instruction sheet for Session Two;
- your prewriting and rough draft from Session One; and
- [an answer document](#) where you will copy your writing after revising and editing.

Be sure you have the answer sheet with your name on it. Follow your teacher's directions in making sure that the code numbers on both sides of the answer document match.

Remember, your writing must be on the following topic:

PROMPT

Friendships are important to middle school students. Write a definition of what your friends mean to you and be sure to include examples.

STEP 4: REVISING AND EDITING

Plan on taking about 15 minutes to revise and edit your paper. Leave yourself about 20 minutes to copy your paper onto the answer document and to proofread your final copy. Your teacher will remind you when there are 10 minutes left in this session. Let your teacher know if you need more time. As long as you are working productively, you will be given the time you need to finish.

Read your rough draft and decide what revisions you would like to make. When you revise, you can change things, move parts of your paper around, add ideas, or take things out. Remember that your final copy will be limited to the one page on the inside of your answer document. Ask yourself one more time if your paper makes sense. After you are finished with your revisions, you should edit your paper. Check your spelling, punctuation, capital letters, and grammar to make sure they are correct. You may also use a regular English dictionary if you wish. Neither

your teacher nor your peers are allowed to help you revise or edit. You must do this work yourself.

STEP 5: COPYING WRITING TO ANSWER SHEET AND PROOFREADING

When you are done revising and editing, copy your paper onto the answer document. You must use a No.2 pencil to write on the answer document. Do not skip lines. Make your final copy as neat as you can so that it is easy for others to read. You will not be scored on your handwriting, but it is important that the readers be able to read what you have written. Make certain that your handwriting is dark enough and large enough to be read.

After you copy your paper onto the answer document, read it over to yourself. Be sure you did not leave out words or punctuation marks. If you need to add a word or cross something out, go ahead. Your score will not be lowered because of any corrections you make.

Thank you for sharing a sample of your writing. The teachers who read student writing like this are very interested in what you and other students have to say. We encourage you to continue to learn and grow as it writer.