

Writing Checklist: English A

These are the types of writing that your student will encounter in the K12 English A curriculum. Your student should have successfully completed 80 percent of them and be able to furnish writing samples written at a grade appropriate level. You can use this checklist in your consideration of placement.

Checklist of Writing Types:

- Introduction to the Paragraph:**
Paragraphs are the building blocks of essays. Students will review the parts of the paragraph, learn about purpose, audience, voice, tone, style, clarity, unity, and coherence and then apply what they have learned to write their own paragraphs.
- Personal Narrative:**
A personal narrative allows a writer to share an experience with an audience and reflect on its importance. Personal narratives are generally developed in chronological order, use language that shows rather than tells, and include dialogue.
- Compare and Contrast Essay:**
Students will use two selections that they read in Classics as the basis for writing a comparison-and-contrast essay. In preparing to write the essay, students will learn about the block and the point-by-point organizational strategies.
- Persuasive Essay:**
A persuasive essay attempts to convince the audience of the viewpoint of the writer. Students will review the difference between fact and opinion, learn about the importance of logical thinking, and study some of the impediments to logic: overgeneralizations, circular reasoning, bandwagon appeal, and loaded language. They will also focus on the importance of writing a strong thesis statement and learn the technique of conceding a point.
- Research Report:**
A research report is a type of informative writing. Students will choose a topic, formulate questions about the topic, and learn how to find reliable information, both print and non-print, on that topic. Other concepts that students study will include taking notes, making an outline, and avoiding plagiarism.

- How-to Essay:**
A how-to essay is a type of expository writing. The writer gives instructions that explain a process, including the materials needed. Students will use transition words that make the sequence of steps clear.

- Advertisement:**
Students will create an advertisement, using visuals. They will learn about the importance of identifying the audience. After they have created their advertisement, they will plan and make an oral presentation.

- Book Review:**
A book review presents an overview of a book along with the opinion and recommendations of the writer. Students will review the skill of summarizing before they write their reviews. They will be encouraged to use one of the novels they have read this year as the basis of their reviews.

- Literary Analysis:**
Students will use literary analysis throughout the Classics strand. Literary analysis helps students to think critically about a piece of literature. They will be encouraged to think about their response to and their interpretation of a piece of literature. In addition, students will learn to focus on one aspect of a story or poem and explain how that aspect contributes to the meaning as a whole.

