

## Writing Checklist: English B

These are the types of writing that your student will encounter in the K12 English B 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 Essay:  
An essay is a piece of writing that has multiple paragraphs and focuses on one main topic. Students will learn about the parts of an essay, including the importance of formulating a strong thesis statement. In addition, students will review purpose, audience, voice, tone, style, clarity, unity, and coherence and then apply what they have learned as they write their own essay.
- Autobiographical Incident:  
An autobiographical incident relates a specific event in the life of the writer. It focuses not only on the event but on the thoughts and feelings that the event evoked in the writer. Students will work on using specific nouns, precise verbs, and vivid adjectives and adverbs to make the incident come alive for the reader.
- Definition Essay:  
A definition essay is a piece of informative writing that uses details and examples to define and explain ideas about a topic. Students will define a character trait and expand on that definition by using a selection or selections from Classics to explain how certain characters embody that trait.
- Letter to the Editor:  
In a letter to the editor, the writer presents his or her opinion about a timely subject. Students will focus on an issue that is important to their community. They will review the importance of logical thinking and learn about additional ways that logic is misused: either-or arguments, false cause-effect statements, snob appeal, plain folks appeal, and name-calling. After they have chosen their topic they will develop a thesis statement and do research to support their ideas. Students will use the format of a business letter to present their ideas.



- Research Report:**  
As in grade 6, students will write a research report in which they choose a topic, narrow it, formulate a thesis, and do research to support their thesis. Students will be encouraged to choose a topic that lends itself to a strong thesis and to use a broad range of research materials.
  
- Propaganda:**  
Students will learn what propaganda is and review the logical fallacies and emotional appeals that are an integral part of propaganda. Students will be given an assignment on a fictitious subject so that they can show that they understand what propaganda is.
  
- Cause and Effect Essay:**  
A cause and effect essay explains the relationship between what happens and why it happens. In preparing to write a cause and effect essay, students will study various cause and effect relationships: one cause and one effect; one cause and multiple effects; multiple causes and one effect; and a cause and effect chain. They will use this knowledge to choose a topic and write a cause and effect essay, using transition words that signal the causal relationship between ideas.
  
- Fictional Narrative:**  
A fictional narrative is a story. Students will either write a sequel to a story they have read or create a story of their own. They will review the elements of a story: character, setting, plot, and theme. They will also learn to include specific narrative action--movements, gestures, and expressions, in addition to dialogue--so that the reader can "see" what is happening.
  
- Literary Analysis:** As in grade 6, students will use literary analysis throughout the Classics strand. They will be encouraged to respond to, interpret, and analyze in writing increasingly sophisticated works of literature.

