

Eighth Grade

School-Wide Writing Assignment

Date: _____

Student's Name: _____ ES's Name: _____

Expository Writing Assignment

Pre-Assignment Writing:

- The school website has the directions for administering this assignment. It also has the scoring rubric, expository writing instruction, additional practice prompts, and an optional “mock” practice writing assignment to help prepare the student for this assignment. Go to, http://www.sscs.cc/Handbook/writing_2011/wr_exp_index_11.dwt, or talk to your ES.

Directions:

- In this writing assignment, you will hand write (no typing allowed) a five or more paragraph expository essay in response to the writing task below.
- After reading the task, take time to plan on a separate piece of paper using memorized graphic organizers, write your essay (double spaced), then proofread and edit.
- To begin gaining pacing experience, students are to attempt to do all or as much of this writing assignment as possible in one continuous sitting.

Scoring:

Your writing will be scored on how well you

- make a statement about the topic,
- include at least three main idea sentences about your topic,
- include at least two detail sentences in support of each main idea sentence,
- organize your essay using an introduction paragraph, body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph,
- vary your sentences,
- use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

Writing Task:

Read the following writing task. You must write an expository essay about this topic.

Writing an Expository Essay

You have studied life in early colonial America. You know about the hard times the colonists encountered, but that most of the colonies eventually survived and prospered. Many of the simple everyday acts required individual creativity and effort. The colonists had to live everyday being resourceful enough to meet the needs of their family and community. Write an essay explaining about the ways the colonists used their creativity and resourcefulness to survive and succeed.

When you write your essay, remember to,

- make a statement about the topic,
- include at least three main idea sentences about your topic,
- include at least two detail sentences in support of each main idea sentence,
- organize your essay using an introduction paragraph, body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph,
- vary your sentences,
- use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.