



ACADEMIC DECATHLON

ESSAY WRITING TEST

Round 2

“DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE OVER UNTIL INSTRUCTED BY THE PROCTOR.”

General Instructions to Decathletes

There will be three (3) essay prompts based on the Language and Literature and Super Quiz materials you read and studied for this year’s Academic Decathlon. Carefully read each essay prompt and select only one (1) prompt on which to write your Expository Essay. **You have 50 minutes to write your essay.**

Print in the upper right-hand corner of all your pages, the Prompt Number that you select, your four-digit Student I.D. Number, and your First Name.

It is recommended that you number each of your pages at the bottom.

You may use the first page as an outline and may request additional paper, if necessary. It is your responsibility to make sure your pages are stapled together in the upper, left-hand corner.

Use a blue or black ink pen when writing your essay.

An Expository Essay does the following:

- Primarily explains a process or idea by presenting and interpreting evidence or facts, or offering and explaining reasons
- Presents the thesis clearly and often creatively and provides background information that focuses and unifies the essay
- Supports the thesis with strong, convincing, and often original arguments
- Develops the essay with clear and relevant information and evidence
- Offers specific, concrete, detailed discussion throughout the essay
- Has organization which is focused, logical, and coherent; ends in a satisfying way, bringing closure
- Has an appropriate voice: authoritative, lively, reasonable, and convincing
- Engages and maintains the reader’s interest throughout the essay

In citing material from the literature or Super Quiz, do not merely summarize or list facts, ideas, or evidence. Select, analyze, and discuss the material in a purposeful manner to support your assertions. **IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU ANSWER THE PROMPT.**

Be sure to follow accepted rules of Standard English sentence structure, usage, spelling, grammar, and mechanics. Single space and write or print legibly on the front-side only of the pages. The first page of the booklet is an Outline Page for those students who first develop an outline prior to writing their essay. Allow yourself time for proofreading and correcting your essay.

You are to choose only one (1) essay prompt.

Make sure the "prompt number" you select, your four-digit I.D. number, and your First Name are written on the upper right-hand corner of all your pages, including this page.

It is also recommended to number your pages at the bottom of all your pages.

Prompt Number: _____
Decathlete's Four-Digit ID Number: _____
Decathlete's First Name: _____

ESSAY PROMPTS

SELECT ONLY ONE

1. The potential promise and search for resources from our vast ocean are limitless. Select two resources that have remained relatively untapped and discuss their potential benefits and possible drawbacks to our earth's surface and to mankind.
2. Based on your readings from *The Blue Planet – Beneath the Surface Super Quiz Resource Guide*, explain why the ocean is important.
3. One aspect of the novel *Far from the Madding Crowd* is the Victorian cultural belief that women are dependent upon men. Explain how Bathsheba Everdene's conduct, both as a manager of her farm and in her relationships with others, conforms to and departs from this belief.

PLEASE SELECT ONE BOX BELOW:

YES! You may publish my essay.

NO! You may not publish my essay.

For Essay Judges Use Only. Decathletes: Please DO NOT WRITE Below this Line

READER: _____

A X 8 = _____ B X 2 = _____ TOTAL = _____

READER: _____

A X 8 = _____ B X 2 = _____ TOTAL = _____

READER: _____

A X 8 = _____ B X 2 = _____ TOTAL = _____