

June, 2021

Dear In-Coming 7th Grader,

We hope your summer is filled with lots of fun and relaxation!

Summer is the time to relax, right? While we wholeheartedly agree with this sentiment, we don't want you to forget everything you learned. So, this summer reading assignment is meant to give your brain some time to chill but also a reminder that it still has to work. This assignment asks you to read two books of your choice, write a couple essays, and do a few creative things as well. Super easy! So, get those books and start reading. This assignment is worth 57 points and will be due on the first day of school.

Have a great summer,

Junior High Language Arts Teachers
St. Joseph Grade School

Nonfiction:

1) Must read 1 **non-fiction** novel that is age, grade, and reading level appropriate and write a short 3 paragraph essay (approx. 500-750 words with an introduction, body paragraph, & conclusion) on what was the most interesting part of the book and why. Be sure to include contextual evidence (aka quotes) to support your answer. Punctuation for the citations should follow the MLA form (use your SJGS Writer’s Handbook and/or the citation toll on your Google Doc). Because this essay is referring to only one book, just the page numbers will be in parentheses. An example of correct citation is below. Please pay attention to the punctuation marks:

Mrs. Bennet truly believed that “the business of her life was to get her daughters married” (53).

A Work Cited page should be included.

This portion of the assignment is worth 20 points. Please see the grading rubric at the bottom.

- 1) On the blank side of a 3x5 notecard, create a business card for one of the main characters of your nonfiction book. The card must express the character’s personality. *This portion of the assignment is worth 9 points.*



Business Card Rubric

+ ____/9

1		0
Card is on 3”x5” index card		*Card is not 3”x5” *Card is on lined side of index card
Character’s name is easily visible on card		Character’s name is not present
2	1	0
Hand-drawn illustrations/designs are eye-catching	Illustrations/designs are computer rendered but still pleasing to the eye	No illustrations/designs present
2	1	0
Business card is colorful	Business card has some color	Business card has no color
3	2	1
Card obviously represents character’s personality	Card gives some indication of who the character is	Card gives no indication of character’s personality

Nonfiction Essay Rubric

____/20

	5	3	1
Organization	Inviting introduction, satisfying conclusion Citations formatted correctly (MLA) Flows smoothly, logical and effective sequencing	Introduction and conclusion are present Citations are present but not always correctly formatted Sequencing shows logic but not always clear	No real lead Ends abruptly No citations present Transition between ideas is confusing
	5	3	1
Ideas	Topic is narrow and manageable Details show insight and go beyond the obvious	Topic is broad Support is attempted but ideas are general observations	Did not write to topic Everything is equally important Length not adequate
	5	3	1
Word choice	Words are specific and accurate, create images	Words are adequate, use of everyday words and phrases.	Word choice is limited - certain words or phrases are used repetitively. Limited vocabulary
	2	1	0
Conventions	Spelling, punctuation, capitalization are accurate.	Spelling, punctuation, capitalization errors do not distract from essay	Frequent spelling, punctuation, capitalization errors distract from the essay
	2	1	0
Headings	Essay written in 12pt font Double spaced Name in upper right corner Creative essay title bold, centered above essay	Essay not in 12pt font Essay single spaced Name not in upper right corner Essay title present	Name not on paper Essay title not on paper
	1		0
Submission	Paper copy on time On time		Copy turned in late

Fiction novel:

- 2) Read 1 **fiction** novel that is age, grade, and reading level appropriate. Write a short 3 paragraph essay (approx. 500-750 words with an introduction, body paragraph, & conclusion) on why one of the characters is a hero. Be sure to include contextual evidence to support your answer. Please use the citation method as stated in the non-fiction essay directions. *This portion of the assignment is worth 20 points.*
- 3) For one of the main characters in your fiction book, create a **top five (5) list** for one of the following categories: books, songs, movies, TV shows, actors/actresses, or places to visit. **Give a short reason (2-3 sentences) for each entry as to why these items are on this list. Your submission must contain two lists - One for the items and One for the reasons. Do not merge both lists together.** *This list must be on a sheet separate from your essay. This portion of the assignment is worth 8 points.*

Top Five List

+ _____/8

	1	0
Presentation	Numbered list is present Reason list is present	Items are listed but without numbers or lists are merged
	1	0
	Five items are present	Four or less items are listed
	1	0
Conventions	Spelling, punctuation are accurate	Spelling, punctuation mistakes are present
	1	0
Ideas (per item) ___/5	2-3 Sentences given why item is on list	No reason listed

Fiction Essay Rubric

+ _____/20

	5	3	1
Organization	Inviting introduction, satisfying conclusion Citations formatted correctly (MLA) Flows smoothly, logical and effective sequencing	Introduction and conclusion are present Citations are present but not always correctly formatted Sequencing shows logic but not always clear	No real lead Ends abruptly No citations present Transition between ideas is confusing
	5	3	1
Ideas	Topic is narrow and manageable Details show insight and go beyond the obvious	Topic is broad Support is attempted but ideas are general observations	Did not write to topic Everything is equally important Length not adequate
	5	3	1
Word choice	Words are specific and accurate, create images	Words are adequate, use of everyday words and phrases.	Word choice is limited - certain words or phrases are used repetitively. Limited vocabulary
	2	1	0
Conventions	Spelling, punctuation, capitalization are accurate.	Spelling, punctuation, capitalization errors do not distract from essay	Frequent spelling, punctuation, capitalization errors distract from the essay
	2	1	0
Headings	Essay written in 12pt font Double spaced Name in upper right corner Creative essay title bold, centered above essay	Essay not in 12pt font Essay single spaced Name not in upper right corner Essay title present	Name not on paper Essay title not on paper
	1		0
Submission	Paper copy on time On time		Copy turned in late

Developing Essay Paragraphs - The MELEC Way!

[Developing your paragraphs:](#) (use a separate sheet of paper or Google Doc)

[Introduction \(Video Link\):](#)

- Hook
- Explanation of hook and how it ties into your paper
- Sentence(s) leading into your thesis statement
- **Thesis statement (Topic + opinion + 3 arguments)**

[Body Paragraphs \(Video Link\)](#) - [Using Transitions \(Video Link\)](#) - [Precise Words link:](#)

Paragraph 1:

- **M** = Main idea...1st topic/argument developed from your thesis statement - order matters!
- Elaboration
- Link to the text (text evidence) - Expert evidence
- Explanation
- Concluding statement tying back into your first argument sentence

Paragraph 2:

- **M** = Main idea...2nd topic/argument developed from your thesis statement
- Elaboration
- Link to the text (text evidence)
- Explanation
- Concluding statement back into your second argument sentence

Paragraph 3:

- **M** = Main idea...3rd topic/argument developed from thesis statement
- Elaboration
- Link to the text (text evidence)
- Explanation
- Concluding statement back into your 3rd argument sentence

[Conclusion \(Video Link\):](#)

- Several ways to begin... restatement of thesis, quote, repetition, other
- Reference previous arguments (*multiple sentences*)
- Concise wrap-up of your overall argument of the main theme.
- End on a solid final note