

Section 218
READY WRITING CONTEST

All rules in Section 209 apply to this contest.

A. NATURE OF THE CONTEST.

Purpose. The purpose of this **ninety (90) minute** contest is for the contestant to write an expository essay on a current topic. The expository essay should be interesting, organized and conform to correct English writing style. Contestants are given a choice between two prompts, each an excerpt from literature, publications (past and present), or speeches.

B. THE COMPOSITION.

1. *Nature.* **The composition is to be expository.** Expository writing explains, proves, or explores a topic in a balanced way, allowing the argument and the evidence given to be the deciding factor in the paper. Descriptive or narrative passages may be used to illustrate or reinforce an idea or point that is being explained, but must be clearly subordinate or incidental to the exposition.
2. *Length.* There is no minimum or maximum length. An excellent essay is noted for its well-developed ideas and use of evidence to support the main point(s).
3. *Title.* Each contestant shall write a title based on the subject statement he has chosen. The penalty for omitting the title will be disqualification of the paper. The title should be written about two (2) inches below the top of the first sheet. The first line of the composition should be placed about one (1) inch below the title.
4. *Margins.* A consistent margin of approximately one (1) inch should be allowed on the left of the page.
5. *Page Numbers.* Pages should be numbered on the upper left-hand corners, without parentheses.
6. *Materials.* Contestants may use ruled or plain writing paper, standard notebook paper or typing paper. No oversized or legal sized paper is allowed. The contestant must furnish his own paper. The composition must be written in ink on one side of the paper.

C. CONDUCTING THE CONTEST.

1. *Reading the Contest Instructions.* The contest director will read the following directions exactly as they are printed:
 - a. Use ruled or plain white paper, standard notebook paper or typing paper. No oversized or legal sized paper is allowed. The contestants are responsible for bringing their own clean, blank writing paper. The composition must be written in ink on one side of the paper. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
 - b. You have **ninety (90) minutes** for this contest. You are required to turn off any audible signals on any timing devices during the contest.
 - c. The essay should be interesting, organized and conform to correct English writing style. **The composition is to be expository.** Wordiness is to be avoided. There is no minimum or maximum length.
 - d. If you finish the essay before the end of the allotted time, you may turn in your essay and prompt sheet and quietly leave the room. No talking or distracting noises will be permitted.



- e. Keep your prompt sheet turned over until the signal is given to begin; this is particularly important while the test papers are being distributed and before the signal to begin the contest has been given.
 - f. When the signal is given to stop, you must cease all writing.
 - g. **A title based on the subject statement should be written about two (2) inches below the top of the first sheet. The first line of the composition should be placed about one (1) inch below the title. The penalty for omitting the title will be disqualification.**
 - h. During the writing period, no questions may be asked or answered. There will be no communication among the contestants, the contestants and their coaches and other individuals.
 - i. You may use a Thesaurus and a Dictionary during the contest. Resource materials MAY NOT be shared between contestants.
 - j. Transferring information concerning this test to other contestants or coaches shall be ruled a violation of the TAPPS Academic Meet Code and subject to penalties up to and including disqualification.
 - k. Make sure you put your name, city, school, and school classification in the upper right hand corner on your essay and prompt sheet. Failure to put your name and school will result in disqualification.
 - l. Make sure you turn in your essay and prompt sheet to the contest director before leaving the room. If you leave the contest room with your essay and prompt sheet, you will be disqualified.
3. *Stop and Start Signals.* Exactly two hours after the start signal was given, announce that time has expired and that contestants must turn in their test and answer sheet. Contestants must cease writing when the stop signal is given.
 4. *Scoring.* Judges are ranking the essay and not grading the essays. The objective is to rank each essay in order of preference with the highest ranking receiving a rank of 1.
 - a. *Using the Rubric.* The three judges will use the supplied rubric to evaluate each essay. The rubric for ready writing is found on the TAPPS website. Judges will complete a rubric for each essay. The rubric is for focusing the judges comments and assisting when ranking the students' work. Judges will not mark on the manuscripts.
 - b. *Scoring.* After each judge has evaluated all essays, the contestant's score is the total points determined by adding each judge's score. There will be no consultation among the judges when evaluating the essays and assigning points to an essay.
 5. Ties will be broken according to the speech ranking system. (Section 224. Conducting the Contest/G. Ranking & Ties)