For this grading period, you will need to write five essays. You have already written two of them so far (middle school changes, causes of good grades) – you just need to enter them into MyAccess so they can be revised and graded.

You will now choose your next three essay prompts from the “informative” and “narrative” lists. You will need to choose at least one from each list; your third choice can be from whichever list you want.

You will then have to write your essays in class, by hand. After you are done writing them by hand, you will need to type them into MyAccess during your time in computer class, or in other ways (on an electronic device in class, etc.).

Essay grading

MyAccess allows for multiple revisions to your essays. This means that you can raise your overall essay score over time with rewriting. This is critical, since it lets you revise your essays so you can get a higher grade by the end of the grading period!

Your grade for each essay will be made up of two parts: your participation grade and your final essay grade.

Participation grade: the grade you get in class on designated “essay workshop” days.

Final essay grade: the grade you receive at the end of the grading period, after you have input your essay into MyAccess. This is the grade that you can improve by revising and rewriting your essay over time.

Look below for tips on how to write effective informative and narrative style essays.

When you write an Informative-style essay, remember the following:

• develop a multi-paragraph response to the assigned topic that clearly communicates your controlling idea to the audience.
• support your controlling idea with meaningful examples, reasons, and information based upon your research or readings.
• organize your essay in a clear and logical manner, including an introduction, body, and conclusion.
• use well-structured sentences and language that are appropriate for your audience.
• edit your work to conform to the conventions of standard American English.

When you write a narrative-style essay, remember the following:

• develop a multi-paragraph response to the assigned topic that clearly communicates the purpose of your story to the audience.
• describe the characters, setting, and conflict using meaningful sensory descriptions and details that enable the reader to visualize the experiences in your narrative.
• organize your story in a clear and logical manner, including a beginning, middle and end.
• use well-structured sentences and language that are appropriate for your audience.
• edit your work to conform to the conventions of standard American English.
Informative-style prompts

**A Career For Me**
Everyone has an idea of what they would like to do when they "grow up." Think about the career you would like to have when you finish school and why you would like to have this career.
Write a detailed essay explaining what career you would like to have when you "grow up" and why you have chosen this career. Use specific details to explain and support your reasons. Use adjectives and descriptive words to make your paper interesting to read.

**An Admirable Woman in History**
Throughout our history, there have been many admirable women who have had an important impact on our lives. Whether they were great leaders, writers, or individuals who broke new ground and gender barriers, the roles of many women throughout history are to be admired. What woman in history do you admire most? What did she contribute to the world or accomplish in her life that earned your admiration?
In a detailed essay, write about a famous woman in history that you admire. Include facts and details about her life to support your choice.

**A Prominent African American**
Martin Luther King is prominently viewed as one of the foremost American leaders and one of the most well-known African Americans. While King is popularly renowned, there are many other African Americans who have made major contributions in the worlds of science, politics, and the arts.
In a detailed essay, describe an African American that you have researched who has helped America move forward in art, science, or politics.

**Build a Teacher**
If you were given the opportunity to “build” the ideal teacher, what features would you include? What personality features make a teacher more effective? What characteristics of teachers you have had would you incorporate into your teacher?
In a multi-paragraph essay, describe the features and characteristics you would build into the ideal teacher. Include details that will enable the reader to understand the important qualities of the teacher.

**Enjoying Activities, Classes, and Clubs**
Most schools offer a variety of activities, classes, and clubs. Identify one of these that students enjoy and explain why they enjoy it. Include specific details and examples in your response.

**Extracurricular Activities in High School**
Extracurricular involvement is a key component of the college admissions process. As you prepare to enter high school, it is wise to begin thinking seriously about the sports and/or extracurricular activities in which you would like to participate.
In a detailed essay, discuss one or more sports and/or activities you would like to get involved with in high school. Include how your involvement can benefit you in the future.

**Important Inventions**
Discoveries and inventions have tremendous impact on our lives. Think about and choose one that has affected society.
Write an essay to inform your reader about this discovery or invention. Explain its impact or influence on humankind.

**Media Influence**
The media significantly influences our lives these days. We are surrounded by media sources such as television, radio, magazines, newspapers, and the Internet. Which of these media sources do you think most affects our daily lives? How does it affect us?
Write an essay about the media source of your choice and explain how it affects your life and the lives of those around you.

**Music in My Life**
Music is often a part of our everyday lives. Many people listen to their iPods or MP3 players while exercising, working, relaxing, or even while exploring nature. Many use the Internet to explore music, download music, and watch music videos. Some even make their own music, either as part of a group or independently. However people choose to include music in their lives, it often affects their mood, attitude, or behavior.
In a multi-paragraph essay, explain how music is a part of your life. Be sure to include specific details about the music and examples of how it might influence your ideas, emotions, relationships, and behavior.
Negative Effects of Electronic Communication
Cell phones, television, the Internet, and other forms of electronic communication have undoubtedly had a huge effect on children growing up in the twenty-first century. While we all enjoy the benefits of electronic communication, what about the dangers? In some ways, these new communication methods can put children and teens in danger or cause anti-social behaviors, which may have negative effects on families.
Using your readings, your own personal experiences, and the experiences of others you know, write a multi-paragraph essay describing the negative effects these new communication technologies have had or can have on children and teenagers in the modern age.

Problems with a Close Friend
In life, it is often a challenge to find a friend with whom you can share just about anything. When we do find a close friend like this, it is important to keep your friendship free from conflict, but problems can develop from just about anything. Think of a time when you were having a serious problem with a close friend. What was the problem? How did you resolve your issues?
In a well-developed essay, describe the problem that you were having with your friend and how you dealt with it. Include details and examples to support your description.

Society's Biggest Problem
In our society we face a number of problems, such as crime, poverty, and pollution. What do you think is the biggest problem we face in our society today, and why is it a serious issue?
Write an essay explaining the issue or problem you have chosen and why it is having such a negative effect on our society.

Trading Places
Often we dream of trading places with a person whom we respect or admire or someone living an exciting or interesting life. If you could trade places with someone, whom would you choose? Would you want to experience this person's fame, talent, or some other aspect of his/her life?
In a detailed essay, identify the person with whom you would like to trade places for one day, and give reasons for your choice. Include facts and details to support your explanation.

Treating People Better
Many people believe that the way we treat our fellow man has worsened over the years. If you were asked to improve the main problem in the way we treat one another, what problem would you choose and how would you fix it?
In a detailed essay, discuss the problem you would choose to fix in order to improve the way we treat our fellow man. Use facts and examples to support your discussion.

Visiting an Interesting Place
There are many interesting places in the world. Different regions of the world have different cultures, geographies, climates, sights, and activities. If you could choose to visit one place in the world that you have never been before, where would it be? Why?

What Do You Desire Most?
There is more to life than material wealth, and it's those other desires that drive us to achieve. Think about what you actually desire most, above and beyond money and possessions. Write a multiparagraph essay which discusses what you really want. Be specific and include details and examples.

What Have You Learned?
Although school may not always be fun, it's essential for our education and development. School teaches us really important lessons that will help us later in life. What is the most important thing you have learned in school so far?
Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you discuss one thing school has taught you and its importance to your life and your future. Use specific examples and details to support your response.

What's in a Name?
Each of us has a name that makes us unique and helps to identify who we are. Yet, few people know the meaning or origin of their names.
Explore the origin of your name. Using books, the Internet, or other resources, research the etymology of your name, its use in mythology or religion, and the naming traditions of your family or culture. Then, write a well-developed essay in which you discuss the meaning of your name and what makes it unique to you.
Narrative-style prompts

Acts of Kindness
Responding with kindness rather than punishment when someone tries to hurt you can bring about good results. Think about how an act of kindness can bring about good results and write a narrative about a time when you responded to someone who hurt your feelings with an act of kindness rather than punishment. If no such situation has ever happened to you, create a similar situation in which someone responded to a hurtful situation with an act of kindness rather than punishment.

A Day Without Math
Can you imagine going through a normal day in a world without numbers, math operations, measurements, or other math-related concepts? Write about spending a day without math. As you write your story, remember to provide details so the reader can picture what happens during your day.

A Future Success Story
Imagine that it is twenty years in the future and you are about to receive an award for an important accomplishment. How did you become so successful and why are you winning this award? In a well-written story, describe this event in detail. Be sure to include specific details to make the story vivid for the readers.

Animal for a Day
Most people find animals interesting. Imagine you could be your favorite animal for a day. Write a story about what you would do if you were that animal for a day.

Changes in a Friendship
Friendships change and evolve over time. Some friendships can last a lifetime, while others may last only a few months. Think about a time when a friendship you had changed, evolved, or ended. Perhaps you or your friend moved, transferred to a different school, or became part of a different group of friends. Write a narrative composition about a time a friendship of yours changed, evolved, or ended. Tell what happened and how you felt about it. Be sure to include details and examples for support.

Conflict in School
Think about a time in which you got into a conflict at school. Was it with a friend, an enemy, or even a teacher? Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you explain the circumstances of the conflict, the climax of the conflict, and the resolution. Be sure to include specific details to support your response.

Cultural Heritage or Ancestry Narrative
As citizens of the United States of America, we all differ in our cultural heritage or ancestral background. What is your personal cultural heritage? When did your family immigrate to the United States? What stories do you have to tell relating to your personal cultural heritage and ancestry? Write a story about your personal cultural heritage or ancestry.

Facing the Impossible
Often we are faced with tasks that seem impossible. Write a narrative essay about something you were able to accomplish that you first thought would be impossible. Be sure to include specific details and personal examples to support your response.

Fairy Tale from a Different Perspective
Fairy tales are often told from the perspective of a specific character or narrator. If a certain fairy tale were told from the perspective of another character in the story, it could unfold very differently, possibly taking a comical or tragic twist. For example, how would the story of Jack and the Beanstalk differ if told by the Giant? In a multi-paragraph story, retell a fairy tale from the perspective of a different character. Be sure to include sensory details, a well-developed setting, and all plot stages.

Family and Friendship
Family and friendship are very important. We do many fun things with our friends and family. Think about one fun or exciting time you had with a very close friend or family member. Write an essay in which you describe one thing you have done with your friend or family member and tell why it was fun.
Feeling Like an Outsider
Many works of literature explore how, at one point or another, we all have felt as if we don't belong. For example, in "Barrio Boy," Ernesto Galarza shares what it was like to be an outsider in a new land. He had many struggles including learning a new language, making new friends, and becoming part of the culture.
Write a multi-paragraph autobiographical narrative in which you describe a time when you felt like an outsider.

Getting Home from the Middle of Nowhere
Imagine that you are riding on a train or a bus. Suddenly the train or bus stops, and the driver announces that you have reached the end and you must get off. As the train or bus departs, you realize that you have no idea where you are. What will you do?
Write an imaginative story about your adventures in this unfamiliar place and how you try to get home.

How Does Conflict Lead to Change?
When conflicts erupt between people, it is often useful to examine how these conflicts ultimately change the participants. How do you think conflict can lead to change?
Write an essay about a specific time in your life when you experienced a conflict which had an impact on your, or someone else's, life. Be sure to provide details of the conflict and discuss how it changed the participants.

Learning from Experience
We learn many things from experience. Think about an experience that you had that taught you an important lesson.
What was the experience? What lesson did you learn from this experience?
Write a narrative about an experience you had and the important lesson you learned from it.

Life Without Electronic Media
Most of us rely on electronic media, such as video games, computers, TV, and cell phones for information and entertainment. What if all electronic media disappeared? What would we do for entertainment? How would we communicate with our friends and families?
Write a unique story about life without electronic media. What caused these technologies to disappear? What will people do to entertain themselves without these devices? Make your story interesting and unusual so that your audience will want to read every word.

To Change a Day in Your Life
Imagine you are given the opportunity to change a single day in your life. What day would it be and why? What important event(s) occurred on that day? How would this change affect you today?
Write a narrative about what one day in your life you would change and why.

The "Tell-Tale Heart" by E.A. Poe
"The Tell-Tale Heart" is a terrifying story told from the narrator's point of view about his descent into madness. Imagine, though, if the story had been written from the old man's perspective – how would he have described the events that led to the story’s conclusion?
Using your imagination, rewrite the story "The Tell-Tale Heart" from the old man's perspective. Be sure to use details from the original story to make your version more realistic.

Your Dreams
We all have dreams about the future and goals we hope to achieve. Write a personal narrative telling about your dreams and goals for the future and how you plan to fulfill them.

Your Funniest or Most Embarrassing Experience
We have all had experiences at one time or another that were humorous. Think about your most embarrassing or humorous experience. In a well-developed essay, tell the story of where you were and what happened.