



Grade 11: Unit 1: Benchmark Assessment: Narrative/Argument College and Career Readiness Essay **Required for ICAP**

Directions: Colleges, Universities, Technical and Vocational Schools, and even employers often ask applicants to respond to essay questions, and the questions require applicants to *blend different modes of writing*. For example, a prompt might ask an applicant to narrate events for the purpose of making an argument. Even when the prompt seems only to ask for an explanatory response, remember that argument is inherent in your purpose for writing- being admitted or hired. For this assignment, you will select and respond to a prompt which requires you to write in two modes- narrative and argument. **This essay, developed over time and edited for concise language, should not exceed 500 words.**

Review and select one of the prompts below or conduct research to locate a prompt applicable to your college and/or career goals. Make sure the prompt you select lends itself to writing in **two** modes (narrative/argument).

Your writing will be scored with the Narrative/Argument College and Career Readiness Essay.

- The quality of any social environment (work, school, residential, etc.) is heavily influenced by the unique life experiences and cultural traditions each student brings. What perspective do you feel that you will be able to share with others as a result of your own life experiences and background? Cite a personal experience to illustrate this.
- Anatole France said, "If 50 million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing." On what subject do you disagree with most people, and why?
- Select a creative work: a novel, a film, a poem, a musical piece, a painting or other work of art that has influenced the way you view the world and the way you view yourself. Discuss the work and its effect on you.
- Name one book you have read in the past year, describe your reason for considering this book significant and what you gained from reading it.
- Read Annie Dillard's "An American Childhood." Choose one of her observations or ideas and write a creative, reflective or provocative essay.
- Identity and culture are clearly intertwined. How has your experience of culture influenced the development of your own personal identity?
- Sartre said "Hell is other people," while Streisand sang, "People who need people are the luckiest people in the world." With whom do you agree?
- Imagine you have written a short story, film, or play about your last four years. Briefly describe the moment or scene that you think your audience will most remember after they have finished this autobiographical piece. What will they learn about you from that moment?
- George Washington said, "Associate with men of good quality, if you esteem your own reputation; it is better to be alone than in bad company." About which of your friends do you and your parents disagree? Why do you feel that the continued company of this friend is a good thing?

- Create a metaphor for yourself using something you would find in your kitchen or your garage. List as many similarities or relationships between yourself and this object as you can think of, then elaborate on this comparison in an essay. Why is this object a good representation of you?
- What do you think has been the most important social or political movement of the twentieth century? Do you share a personal identification with this cause?
- Reflect on these words of Dorothy Day: "No one has the right to sit down and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do." What is "the work to be done" for your generation, and what impact does this have on your future as a leader? Write a creative, reflective, or provocative essay.
- Imagine you have written a short story, film, or play about your last four years. Briefly describe the one moment or scene that your audience will most remember from this autobiographical piece. What will they learn about you from that moment?
- History has recorded the American Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, and the Sexual Revolution. Today we are witnessing a revolution in the way we receive information. What do you think will be the next great revolution, and what will be its impact on you and your society?
- If you could hold a conversation with someone (living or deceased) you consider significant, who would you talk to and what would you talk about? Describe your conversation.
- If you could change the course of a singular event in history, what event would you affect, and why? In addition, please provide insight on how you would implement your decision.
- Look through old family photos and pull out a few that remind you of important times or significant moments. (Remember that the impact of a moment is what makes it significant. A hike through the woods can sometimes be more significant than a birthday.) Choose one of these "Kodak Moment" to describe and explain its significance to you. Speak about the photograph and your feelings about what you see in it.