

EXTEMPORANEOUS ESSAY

Format: In-Person

Registration Guidelines:

1. A limit of two (2) students from each team may register for this competition. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.

Procedure:

1. Names and other identifying information with the exception of MIST ID should not be written anywhere on the final submission.
2. All competitors are to report to the competition room at the same time, which will be designated in the competition schedule.
3. Paper and pen/pencil will be provided, but students may feel free to bring their own.
4. Students will choose one topic from a selection of three.
 - a. The topics will be relevant to the annual theme or current events.
5. Students are allotted 60 minutes to complete their essay, written in the English language.
 - a. The submission is to be turned in to the proctor at the end of the hour but can be turned in earlier.
6. Students are allowed to bring printed reference materials (such as newspapers or articles) or quotations relevant to the theme or current affairs with them to use for citation during the competition, but prepared notes or personal essays are not allowed.
 - a. Materials must be reviewed and approved at the sole discretion of the Competition Moderator before the competition begins.
 - b. Annotations within the materials will not be permitted. These include but are not limited to: highlighting, underlining, attaching post-its, and writing in the margins.
7. Electronic device usage is not permitted during the competition.

DETAILED BALLOT: EXTEMPORANEOUS ESSAY

Section A: Technical

Points: 5

- Participant is on time for the competition.
- The participant stopped writing when time was called.
- There are no identifiers on the submission aside from their MIST ID.

Section B: Content

Conventions

Points: 10

- Is the essay mostly free of spelling mistakes? - 1 for each error
- Is the essay mostly free of punctuation mistakes? - 1 for each error
- Is the essay mostly free of grammatical mistakes? - 2 for each error
- If (optional) references are correctly cited in the paper? +1 for each citation
- Are (optional) references not cited in the paper? - 2 for each error

Ideas and Development

Points: 20

- Did the writer answer one of the topics with sufficient detail?
- Did the writer take a unique approach when addressing the topic?
- Did the writer stay on topic throughout the entire essay?
- Was the main idea or message clear to the reader?

Organization

Points: 15

- Did the introduction grab the reader's attention with a unique start, a clear thesis statement, and concise supporting points?
- Were adequate details, examples, and support provided for each supporting point?
- Were the paragraphs well-developed, each with their own main idea?
- Did the conclusion link back to the introduction?

Sentence Fluency

Points: 15

- Did the writer vary sentence types by using a mixture of simple and complex sentences?
- Do most sentences begin with different words?
- When read aloud, do the sentences flow well together?
- Was there a logical progression of ideas?

Section C: Style

Word Choice

Points: 25

- Did the writer use thoughtful adjectives to create more vivid imagery?
- Did the writer use strong action verbs to support the essay's message
 - i. I.e. "cruise" instead of "drive," or "stroll" instead of "walk"
- Did the writer use precise nouns to help present a clear and distinct message
 - i. I.e. "7th Grade students" instead of just "students," or "Science project" instead of "project"
- Did the overall usage of words create color and texture in the writing? Was it clear that this writer took risks with their word choice?

Voice

Points: 15

- Does the reader show passion about his/her topic?
- Is the tone natural and consistent, reflecting original thinking and expression?
- Does the writer capture a tone or mood with his/her words?

EXTEMPORANEOUS ESSAY BALLOT

		Subtotal
Section A	Technical	____ / 5 points
Section B	Conventions	____ / 10 points
Section B	Ideas and Development	____ / 20 points
Section B	Organization	____ / 15 points
Section B	Sentence Fluency	____ / 15 points
Section C	Word Choice	____ / 20 points
Section C	Voice	____ / 15 points

Total: ____/100 Points

Overall Judges Comments and Feedback
