

**What you can do to help your child prepare!**

We have been practicing the proper writing skills for an essay test since the beginning of the year. Your child knows the proper technique as well as all the elements an essay requires to score well on the test. There are however a few things you can do to assist them for this writing exam.

♥ Get a good night sleep the night before.



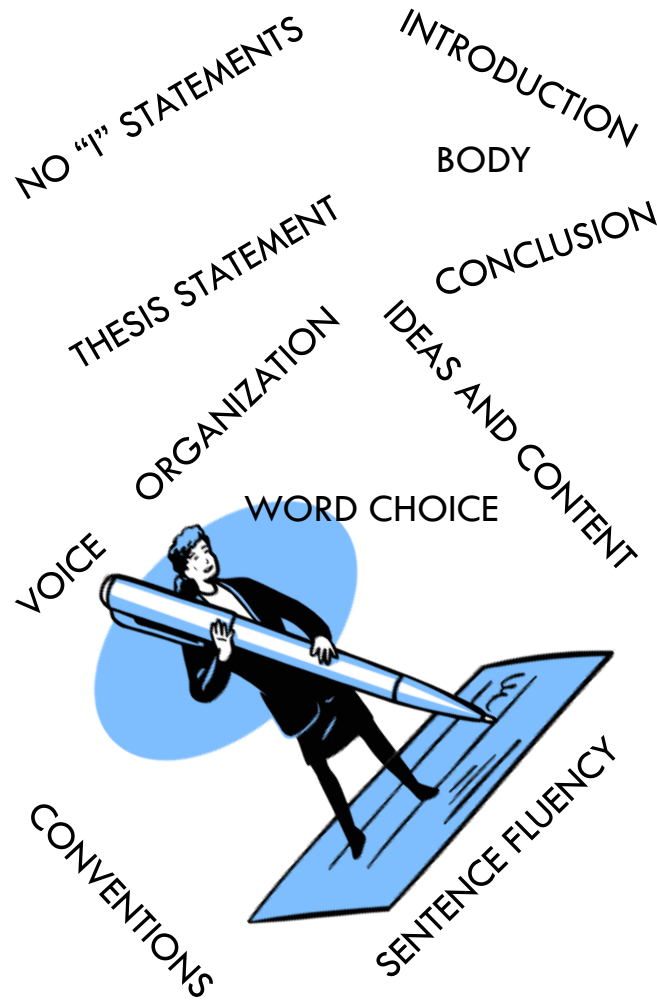
♥ Eat a good breakfast the morning of the test



♥ Encourage them to take it seriously and be at school on time.



♥ Remind them that they must pass this test to graduate from high school.



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Spanish Springs  
High School

**WRITING  
PROFICIENCY  
TESTS ARE  
HERE**

**Junior Writing Proficiency  
Wednesday  
November 6 2013**



**Date: 11/06/13  
Time: 08:00 A.M.**

Check the room numbers posted in the halls to find out where you will be testing!

## What is the Writing Proficiency?

The Junior Writing Proficiency is one of four tests your child must pass in order to graduate from high school next year.

Like the reading, science and math Proficiencies they took as sophomores (which they also must pass for graduation) the students will come to school at 8:00 a.m. to begin testing while the rest of the school have a "Late Start" day. All students of Junior Status or those Seniors who have yet to pass the exam will be testing.

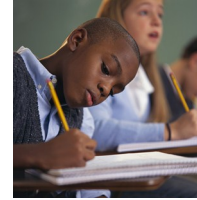
It is imperative that your child be here for the test. If your child is absent for this test the administration will find them the next day they return to school and make them take it. Please make sure your child is in attendance on November 17, 2010.



## What we've done to prepare your child:

Throughout the beginning of the year the students have been working on essays to make sure they are equipped to pass this test. They have practiced and learned the following:

- ♣ How to properly write an **Introduction** that will not only convey the information they need (thesis) but will also be interesting to the readers. These should have a hook, an explanation of the topic and finally a thesis statement. (To do additional preparation, have them pull out the **Writer's Tool Bag I** gave them to assist in this portion of the paper.)
- ♣ Within the **Body** of the essay they need to make sure they have the Topic they are focusing on and Support for their opinion. Their opinion should be stated intelligently and concisely. A conclusion sentence to wrap up the body paragraph. (To refocus them on this section of the paper have them pull out the blue **Properly Written Essay** paper I gave them.)
- ♣ They have learned how to properly support their opinions within the text. Regardless of what their opinion is they need to have support for their views. This can come in a myriad of forms such as: quotes, paraphrases, or examples and anecdotes (stories). In order for them to have credibility they must have support.
- ♣ Finally they must have a well thought out **Conclusion** to bring to a close the paper. They should again have a hook to grab the reader as well as rewording the Thesis statement to conclude the paper. (To review how to do this portion of the essay have them refer to **9 Ways to Write a Conclusion** in their writer's tool bag.)



Lastly, we have practiced writing on the two types of topics. One topic will be Expository (where they respond to a topic usually involving an experience they've had) and one will be Persuasive (where they must choose a side and argue, rationalize and support their opinions). There should be no "I" statements in these essays. These are not personal narratives. Even if they are asked their opinion they should refrain from saying, "I think", "I feel", "I believe", etc... instead they should just state the ideas. If the prompt asked them to write over the best family trip the following are do's and don'ts to follow:

**DON'T WRITE:** "I think my most marvelous family vacation was to Hawaii."

**DO WRITE:** "Exotic vacations are marvelous; the best family excursion occurred in Hawaii in 2004 where activities included swimming with dolphins, visiting an active volcano, and seeing a rainforest."



## Spanish Springs High School