**US History**

**Unit 2 Writing Assessment**

**Essay Prompts**

The writing assessment will be held during class on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* On assessment day, you will be assigned ***One of the three prompts***.
* You may bring ***One sheet*** of standard sized paper with ***handwritten notes***.
* You may only write on ***One side of the paper***.
* Notes that are not handwritten and/or on one side of the paper will not be allowed.
* You will turn in your notes with your essay at the end of the class period. Your score on the writing assessment will account for ½ of a major assessment grade in the grade book.

***The essay must include an introduction paragraph, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. You are expected to use complete sentences, correct spelling, and correct grammar.***

**Essay Prompts:**

* ***Analyze George Washington as a*** ***military leader***, including but not limited to:
* the influence of Baron von Steuben
* the influence of Marquis de Lafayette
* the significance of Valley Forge in the creation of a professional military.
* ***Describe the role of geography at:***
* The Battle of Trenton
* The Battle of Saratoga
* The Battle of Yorktown.
* **Describe how various groups supported the Revolutionary War effort**, including:
* Colonial Women
* Native American Indians
* Enslaved and free Blacks

**The 5 Paragraph Essay**

A five-paragraph essay should be 500 to 800 words long and include an introductory paragraph, three supporting paragraphs and a concluding paragraph.

**The First Paragraph: The Introduction**

The first paragraph will introduce your topic. The introduction is the most important paragraph because it provides direction for the entire essay. It also sets the tone, and you want to grab the reader’s attention with interest and clarity. The best way to tackle the introduction is to:

* Describe your main idea, or what the essay is about, in one sentence. You can usually use the essay writing prompt or question to form this sentence.
* Develop a thesis statement, or what you want to say about the main idea. When the writing prompt is a question, your thesis is typically the answer to the question.
* List three points or arguments that support your thesis in order of importance (one sentence for each).

**The Second, Third and Fourth Paragraphs: Supporting Details**

These three paragraphs form the body of the essay. They provide details, such as facts, quotes, examples and concrete statistics, for the three points in your introductory paragraph that support your thesis. Take the points you listed in your introduction and discuss each in one body paragraph. Here’s how:

* First, write a topic sentence that summarizes your point. This is the first sentence of your paragraph.
* Next, write your argument, or why you feel the topic sentence is true.
* Finally, present your evidence (facts, quotes, examples, and statistics) to support your argument.

Now you have a body paragraph. Repeat for points two and three. The best part about introducing your main points in the first paragraph is that it provides an outline for your body paragraphs and eliminates the need to write in transitions between paragraphs.

**The Fifth Paragraph: The Conclusion**

The concluding paragraph must summarize the essay. This is often the most difficult paragraph to write. In your conclusion, you should restate the thesis and connect it with the body of the essay in a sentence that explains how each point supports the thesis. Your final sentence should uphold your main idea in a clear and compelling manner. Be sure you do not present any new information in the conclusion.