

Diagnostic Writing Assignment

Paragraph

Think about what has happened over the first week at Granite Oaks. What kinds of changes did you notice from elementary school? What kinds of experiences occurred that were memorable? What did you find hopeful or exciting? What do you think about your classes? Are there any activities that you think you will participate?

Now write **one, single paragraph** that is **not in letter format**, has a **topic sentence**, **specific points**, **concrete support**, and a **concluding sentence on the following**:

1) How is Granite Oaks Middle School different than you thought it would be (please do not mention the obvious like the “the lunches are better”)? 2) What do you like most about being here at G.O. and why? 3) What subjects do you think will be the most challenging and why? **These are your three writing points and please be specific.**

Your paragraph will be evaluated by the following checklist to determine your current writing ability. Each line constitutes a point making the evaluation based on a 10 point scale. **Completion of the assignment is worth 20 points and is due the day after it was assigned. If LATE, it will be evaluated; however, it will receive only Half-Credit.**

- _____ Fewer than two spelling errors
- _____ Fewer than two capitalization errors
- _____ Fewer than two punctuation errors
- _____ Writing shows variation in sentence structure
- _____ Fewer than two subject/verb agreement errors
- _____ Writing exhibits mature vocabulary and variety of word choice
- _____ Writing is clear, well focused, and remains on topic
- _____ Writing has at least one concrete support/example for each point in the paragraph
- _____ There are appropriate transitions between the points
- _____ There is a topic and a concluding sentence

Plus, the paper must follow all directions, be stapled correctly (paragraph on top of this sheet), and have a neat appearance.

Key:

8-10 points equals **Proficient**

6-7 points equals **Adequate**

0-5 points equals **Needs Improvement**

