

FSA Writing – Countdown to Success

The writing test is right around the corner. Here are important tips:

10. Know the prompt; understand the purpose of your writing. Are you being asked to write an informative or an argumentative essay?
9. Read the passages, use the planning sheet to organize your ideas, and stay engaged in the task.
8. Begin your essay with an introduction that has a clear focus. Write a thesis statement for an informative essay or a claim for an argumentative essay.
7. Start each body paragraph with a strong topic sentence, and include effective textual evidence and ample elaboration. Seventh and eighth graders: Remember that an argumentative essay also needs a counterclaim and a rebuttal.
6. Cite your sources for both direct and indirect evidence.
5. Be sure to summarize your main points in the conclusion. The conclusion should end with a final thought in an informative essay or a call to action in an argumentative essay.
4. Use both external and internal transitions throughout the essay. Your writing needs to have a sense of completeness...a beginning, a middle, and an end.
3. Re-read your essay multiple times. Edit for conventions, paying close attention to capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure.
2. Take time to review the writing handouts and notes that your language arts teacher has shared with you. Get your head in the game!
1. Get a good night's sleep, eat a hearty breakfast, and begin your writing test with a positive mental attitude. You've got this!

