

~~Writing Assignment~~ Writing Assignment

For this assignment, you are to pick ONE of the following readings and address ONE of the writing prompts. ~~Read the rubric on the back for a description of my expectations. You may decide to write about something other than the given prompts, but I must approve it. This essay will count as a quiz grade.~~ Read the rubric on the back for a description of my expectations. You may decide to write about something other than the given prompts, but I must approve it. This essay will count as a quiz grade.

	Title/Author	Writing Type	Synopsis	Writing Prompt
Reading A	"A Mathematician's Lament" by Paul Lockhart	Opinion	Paul Lockhart is a mathematician who sees huge problems in the state of mathematics education. The problem, he says, is that we're not actually teaching students any <i>math</i> .	<p>1. Reflect on your own experience as a math student in the public school system. Is it as bad as Lockhart claims? Why or why not? Use the text to support your position.</p> <p>2. Support or refute the claim that "mathematics is an art" (p.3). Use the text to support your position.</p>
Reading B	"The Woman Who Bested the Men at Math" by Mike Dash	Non-Fiction	In 1890, Philippa Fawcett became the first and only woman to score highest on a University of Cambridge mathematical exam. In doing so, she forced people to reconsider what women were capable of.	<p>1. How do you think society's perception of women's mathematical ability has changed since Fawcett's time? In what ways has the perception remained the same? Use the text to support your position.</p> <p>2. What do you think of the fact that despite placing first in the examination, Philippa Fawcett was "denied the academic career a male Wrangler would have thought his right"? Use the text to support your theory.</p>
Reading C	"The Feeling of Power" by Isaac Asimov	Fiction	This science fiction story takes place some time in far in the future, when human beings have lost all ability to perform simple arithmetic without the use of a computer. When a low-level bureaucrat discovers how to make calculations by hand, the President of the Terrestrial Federation takes note. At long last humans have a chance of freeing themselves from the tyranny of computers.	<p>1. This short story was written in 1957, long before regular people had access to computers. What did Asimov get right—and what did he get wrong—in his prediction of how humans would relate to computers? Use the text to support your position.</p> <p>2. Consider the last few lines of the story: "Nine times seven, thought Shuman with deep satisfaction, is sixty-three, and I don't need a computer to tell me so. The computer is in my own head. And it was amazing the feeling of power that gave him." Think about your own relationship to technology. Do you ever let technology do the thinking for you? Do you think it would be empowering to do some of that thinking without it? Use the text to support your ideas.</p>

This essays does not have a specified length, but in order to do everything in the “5” column, your paper will need to be two pages minimum.

5	4	3	2	1
Introduction draws the reader in and clearly describes what’s coming in the essay.	Introduction clearly describes what’s coming in the essay.	Introduction describes what’s coming in the essay, but in a way that is somewhat unclear or incomplete.	Introduction is minimal; it leaves out important information about what’s coming in the essay.	The essay does not have an introduction.
There are at least three well-developed body paragraphs that work together to support the main argument.	There are at least three body paragraphs. One of them may be lacking in detail or not fully support the main argument.	There are only two well-developed body paragraphs OR there are at least three body paragraphs, but two or more of them don’t have enough detail to support the main argument.	There is only one body paragraph that supports the main argument OR there are two body paragraphs that lack the detail needed to support the main argument.	The one body paragraph is not separate from the introduction or conclusion.
The essay includes at least three pieces of evidence from the text that support the main argument. There are clear explanations for how this evidence supports the main argument.	The essay includes at least three pieces of evidence from the text that support the main argument, but the essay doesn’t fully expand on why these pieces of evidence support the argument.	The essay includes two or three pieces of evidence from the text, but it’s not completely clear why these pieces of evidence were chosen or how they support the argument.	The essay only has one piece of evidence from the text and it’s not clear why this piece of evidence was chosen or how it supports the argument.	The essay has no textual evidence to support the argument.
The essay is grammatically correct with at most 2 typos.	The essay is mostly grammatically correct, but it may have a few grammatical errors and typos.	The essay has several grammatical errors and typos, but they don’t impact the clarity of the writing.	The essay has many grammatical errors and typos that make it difficult to understand the argument.	The essay is almost incoherent due to the significant number of grammatical errors and typos.
The conclusion synthesizes (pulls together) the argument and articulates the argument’s significance.	The conclusion clearly and completely summarizes the argument.	The conclusion provides a summary of the argument, but it may be somewhat unclear or incomplete.	The conclusion is minimal and doesn’t accurately summarize what the essay was about.	The essay does not have a conclusion.

Rubric Conversion:

5=100

4=90

3=80

2=70

1=60