*7th Grade ELA Writing Pretest*

In an attempt to get to know you as an individual and a writer, please take the time to go through each stage of the writing process to produce a short essay over the following…

The beginning of Jr. High can be overwhelming and exciting. The opportunity for a fresh start every school year becomes an opportunity for you to redefine who you want to become in the future. You will set 3 personal goals for the year based off of the character pillars and our classroom learning contract. A goal is something you want to accomplish or grow in this year. Be sure to be specific and realistic about challenging yourself. You are only as inspired to action as you allow yourself to be. This is a chance to start over! Enjoy it!

Begin by listing the 6 character pillars for our district and our 5 learning contract elements. Between these two different guides to live by, choose 3 that you would like to implement more in your everyday life as a 7th grader. (I would personally recommend the character traits or behaviors that you know are difficult for you or you could improve on.)

Begin to create a brainstorm for each of these three items. Think about how you’ve failed in these areas before and how you could take steps to practically improve. Design an outline or a visual pre-write of your choice to structure your essay before you write it. You must write at least 3 paragraphs, but you are welcome to write up to 5. Be specific and write using details.

When you begin your rough draft, SKIP LINES in order to allow editing later. WRITE IN PENCIL FOR ALL DRAFTS. Please use your best critical writer mind to edit your own essay (this may be done in pen). You may use dictionaries from “The Book Quote Wall” cabinet. Refer to the 6-trait rubric to help you as well. Be sure you are clear of any errors (spelling, grammar, sentence run-ons, etc.), and you’ve made the best improvement to your rough draft.

Re-write your essay in pencil without skipping lines. Use your BEST handwriting. Staple all of your work to this paper and turn it in to THE HUB in your section’s tray. You may take this assignment home if you do not finish, but you should have plenty of time to complete it.

I’m looking forward to getting to know each of you better through your writing and goal setting for this year. Even though I will grade your essay based on the 6-traits, this grade will be for my planning purposes. You will be graded on your ability to follow directions and complete the assignment correctly (total of 35 points). Have fun reflecting on the new school year!

* Mrs. Schneider

WRITING CHECKLIST:

* List character pillars and learning contract (5pts.)
* Choose 3 to set personal goals for this year
* Pre-write using an outline or your own idea (5pts.)
* Write a 3-5 paragraph draft SKIPPING LINES (10pts.)
* Edit your draft (using rubric, dictionaries, and your own mind☺) (5pts.)
* Write a final draft without skipping lines using your best handwriting (10 pts.)
* Staple EVERYTHING TOGETHER and turn it in at THE HUB.

\*If you finish before your classmates, you may read silently or work on other homework if you have it.

Character Pillars Learning Contract

1. 1.
2. 2.
3. 3.
4. 4.
5. 5.
6.

PREWRITE (3 Goals)