

Grade 8 Accelerated English Required Summer Assignment

Congratulations on your acceptance to Accelerated English! All students who wish to pursue this class during eighth grade must successfully complete a summer assignment. It is essential that you read all directions carefully and have the assignment ready for submission by **Monday, August 19th**. *Failure to do so will result in your removal from the class.*

As an Accelerated English student, you will be required to participate in various writing contests during the 2019-2020 school year, one of which is the Scholastic Writing Competition. This writing contest provides an exciting opportunity for student writers to display their creativity and personal writing strengths by offering categories for many genres. For your summer assignment, you will select **one** writing category from the list below and show evidence of the writing process as you develop an original, creative piece.

- ➔ Step One: Select a category from the list provided (attached) and read the description carefully. If you're unfamiliar with a particular genre of writing, explore the 'What We Do' section of the Scholastic Art & Writing website (www.artandwriting.org).
- ➔ Step Two: Use the writing process to successfully develop an original piece of writing. As part of your final portfolio, you must show **evidence** of each step of the process. ***Plagiarism and/or writing from previous English classes will not be accepted and will result in removal from the course.***

Brainstorm	Draft	Revise	Edit	Finalize
Show evidence of your thought process <i>before</i> you begin writing	Develop an original piece that adheres to category requirements	Refine your draft by adding sensory details, substituting stronger synonyms, checking the use of dialogue, eliminating repetitive or unnecessary information, strengthening your character descriptions, etc.	Catch and correct any errors with sentence structure, spelling, and punctuation. Double check that all necessary words are capitalized appropriately	Produce a polished final copy
Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ What inspires you? General a list of ideas, pictures, prompts, etc. that help you think of an idea for a creative piece✓ A sketch, storyboard, or graphic organizer to show the flow of ideas✓ A basic overview of key elements of your piece	Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Type or neatly write an initial draft using key ideas from the brainstorming phase	Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Make handwritten notes and revisions on your initial draft✓ Use a variety of colors and/or symbols to show additions and revisions	Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Make handwritten notes and revisions on your initial draft✓ Have a parent and/or older sibling proofread your paper for content and punctuation	Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Type or neatly write a final draft

- ➔ Step Three: Write a thoughtful Writer's Memo to explain the decisions behind your creative piece and share your process in developing it. See the reverse side of this document for specific formatting information.
- ➔ Step Four: Organize all written materials into one final portfolio.

Cover Page (with your information and a creative title)
Writer's Memo
Polished Final Draft
Initial Draft(s) with revisions and editing
Brainstorming

Writer's Memo Guidelines

Your Name

Mrs. Rauhauser or Mrs. Boggess

Accelerated English

19 August 2019

Writer's Memo

Paragraph #1: Describe the development of your written work. Why did you select one genre over the others? Where did your idea originate? What other ideas did you consider but ultimately reject in favor of this one? How did your original idea evolve from the initial brainstorm to the final draft?

Paragraph #2: Share the challenges. What challenges arose during the writing process? Are there any specific parts of your writing that you feel could be stronger? Is there any one part or element that you struggled to fully develop?

Paragraph #3: Discuss what you're most proud of. Are there any specific stylistic elements that define you as a writer? What are your writing strengths and how are those strengths highlighted in this piece? Throughout the writing process, what was easiest when developing your draft?

The Scholastic Writing Competition Categories

Flash Fiction

Category Description: Highly-focused stories characterized by brevity.

Length: Maximum 1,000 words

Other: Stories in which humor or science fiction/fantasy are key elements should be submitted in those respective categories.

Humor

Category Description: Writing that uses satire, parody or humorous anecdote.

Length: 500 – 3,000 words.

Other: Work in any genre in which humor is the key element should be submitted in this category.

Personal Essay & Memoir

Category Description: A non-fiction work based on opinion, experience, and/or emotion that explores a topic or event of importance to the author.

Length: 500–3,000 words.

Other: Essays in which humor is the key element should be submitted to the humor category.

Poetry

Category Description: Writing in verse.

Length: 3-5 poems required

Other: May include but is not limited to prose poetry, free verse, formal poetry, song lyrics, and spoken word.

Create a unique title for the collection of poems **and** each individual poem.

Science Fiction

Category Description: Writing that uses supernatural, magical, futuristic, scientific, and technological themes as a key element of the narrative.

Length: 500–3,000 words.

Other: All work in which science fiction/fantasy is the key element should be submitted in this category. Do not base characters or plots on already published works (books, movies, comics, etc.).

Short Story

Category Description: A fictional narrative written in prose.

Length: 1,000–3,000 words.

