

Grade 9 Writing Assignments

Below are listed the two writing assignments that must be completed by the due dates assigned. The essay will be evaluated based on focus, content, organization, style, and conventions through the PSSA Writing Rubric.

Assignment #1

Compare and Contrast: Discuss how the novel you have read for this assignment is similar to and/or different from a novel that you have read previously. Think about the structure and style of the novel, more so than just the content. Be sure to have a clear focus, provide details from the novels, write in an organized fashion, and use strong vocabulary and sentence structure.

Assignment #2

You have a choice for this assignment:

Option 1: State and discuss the main theme that the author is trying to convey through the novel. Some possible themes may be:

- the hero and the quest
- a person's search for identity
- conflict between the individual and self, another person, family, society, or nature
- battle between good and evil
- choosing the right priorities in life
- the importance of bravery, loyalty, friendship, or tolerance

Be sure to have a clear focus, provide details from the novels, write in an organized fashion, and use strong vocabulary and sentence structure.

Option 2: Choose a theme song to represent your novel. Be sure to provide the lyrics and a detailed rationale as to why you chose that particular song to represent the novel. Directly link the lyrics with the characters and events in the novel. Be sure to have a clear focus, provide details from the novels, write in an organized fashion, and use strong vocabulary and sentence structure.

Important note:

As stated in the student handbook, "Plagiarism is defined as taking or imitating the ideas, thoughts, language of another to represent them as one's original work. It is imperative that all work submitted by a student be representative of his/her own ideas, thoughts, and especially language capability. Therefore, plagiarism is strictly prohibited in all work pertaining to school." **Writing assignments should reflect students' own thoughts, ideas, and language and not that of any published or online reviews, critiques, or analyses.**