

## **Honors Writing Baseline**

**Overview:** Students will research and write a 2-3 page paper on the biggest problem that currently faces the United States. The purpose of this assignment is to gain an understanding of each student's writing ability. The grading on this assignment will be based on completion (formative assessment) as long as the paper meets the minimum requirements and is constructed in MLA format with in-text citations. Students should be prepared to present a brief overview of their position and defend their points under class scrutiny.

Please don't get extra help from friends or parents. I want to see how YOU write and think.

**Due Date:**

Class 4 – September 5<sup>th</sup>

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Written Performance Rubric

	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Limited
Understanding of the Topic or Concept	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic/concept through insightful analysis, explanation, synthesis, and/or consideration of alternative viewpoints	Demonstrates a understanding of the topic/concept through analysis, explanation, synthesis, and/or consideration of alternative viewpoints.	Demonstrates some understanding of the topic/concept with limited analysis or synthesis.	Demonstrates cursory or superficial understanding of the topic/concept and may show areas of misunderstanding or confusion.
Focus	Develops a compelling idea, claim, or thesis; consistently focuses the writing to respond to the task and audience.	Develops a main idea, claim or thesis that addresses the task and shows awareness of the audience.	Partially develops a main idea, claim or thesis; inconsistently addresses the task and audience	Does not clearly develop main idea, claim or thesis; inadequately addresses task and audience
Support	Thoroughly supports sophisticated statements or arguments with accurate, credible, and relevant evidence	Supports logical statements or arguments with accurate credible and relevant evidence	Inconsistently supports statements or arguments with accurate or relevant evidence	Attempts to support statements or arguments but uses minimal, insufficient or inaccurate evidence.
Organization	Skillfully and or artistically organizes and concepts in order to facilitate understanding.	Organizes ideas and concepts to address the task and purpose; uses appropriate transitions and paragraphs.	Inconsistently organizes ideas and concepts; uses some appropriate transitions and or paragraphs	Does not organize ideas and concepts; lacks appropriate transitions or paragraphs.
Language	Conveys meaning through fluent use of content specific vocabulary and stylistic choices (i.e. word choice and sentence structure)	Conveys meaning through content-specific vocabulary and clear language; proofreading is evident.	Inconsistently uses content specific vocabulary and clear language errors are distracting	Lacks content specific vocabulary; language obscures meaning and errors are frequent
Task Conventions	Submission is written in proper MLA format – no errors.	Submission is written in proper MLA format – few errors.	Submission is written in proper MLA format – sporadic errors	No attempt to follow formatting requirements