**Descriptive Report Writing Assignment**

One of the writing requirements for all grade 8 students is a descriptive report. The purpose of this kind of report is to present your reader with factual information on a topic. Descriptive reports require the evaluation of research - assessing what others have written about a particular topic. Reports do not contain personal opinion and should not include the personal pronoun "I."

**Your Task: (Choose only one)**

1. Research an animal of your choice and report your findings in a well written, five paragraph essay. You could include things such as appearance, diet, habitat, predators, special adaptations, etc.

*Examples: Great white sharks, seahorses, road runners, mule deer, bald eagles*

1. Research a country of the world (with the exception of Canada and the United States) and report your findings in a well written, five paragraph essay. You could include things such as history, geography, climate, landmarks, natural resources, culture, etc.

*Examples: Bolivia, Cuba, Norway, Thailand, Madagascar*

1. Research a topic of your choice. Your topic MUST be cleared with me BEFORE you begin. Report your findings in a well written, five paragraph essay.

**Requirements:**

* Verify your topic with me before beginning
* Complete a graphic organizer/outline
* Revise and edit your rough draft
* Use at least three sources of information and list them in a bibliography
* MLA format (no title page please)
* Good copy typed, 2.0 spacing, size 12 font in Times New Roman, or Calibri OR neatly written in blue or black ink, double spaced.

You will be evaluated using the rubric provided. This rubric is used to evaluate the writing portion of your ELPA in grade 9. Please submit your best work.

**Your report is due Thursday, February 25, 2016.**

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| **Descriptive Report Rubric** **Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
|  | **Weak****(1)** | **Basic****(2)** | **Appropriate****(3)** | **Strong****(4)** |
| **Content/Ideas**  |  |  |  |  |
| Writing is focused; details are relevant, well researched and support main idea. |  |  |  |  |
| **Organization** |  |  |  |  |
| Introduction has a hook and lets the reader know what the essay will be about. |  |  |  |  |
| Ideas are presented in a logical sequence and organized into paragraphs. |  |  |  |  |
| Uses transitions between and within paragraphs to connect ideas. |  |  |  |  |
| Has an appropriate conclusion that sums up main ideas. |  |  |  |  |
| A bibliography is included with at least three sources. |  |  |  |  |
| Proper MLA format. |  |  |  |  |
| **Word Choice** |  |  |  |  |
| Includes interesting words and subject-specific language. |  |  |  |  |
| **Voice** |  |  |  |  |
| Writing attempts to make the reader interested in the topic and create strong feeling, energy, and individuality. |  |  |  |  |
| **Sentence Structure** |  |  |  |  |
| Includes different kinds of sentences – simple, compound, complex, with varied beginnings to make the writing flow. |  |  |  |  |
| **Conventions** |  |  |  |  |
| Uses internal punctuation (, : ; “ “ – ‘) |  |  |  |  |
| Uses proper spelling and grammar (verb tenses, pronouns, contractions, plurals). |  |  |  |  |
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