**Grade 8 Midterm Review**

**Part One: Reflection on Writing**

* **Narrative writing** often features the following characteristics:
	+ An introduction that draws the reader in by establishing context, introducing characters, and providing a point of view
	+ Narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, and description
	+ Transition words and phrases
	+ Precise and sophisticated language, descriptive details, and sensory language/imagery
	+ A conclusion that shows reflection and provides the reader with closure
* **Analytical writing** often features the following characteristics:
	+ An introduction that draws the reader in by establishing the topic and the organizational scheme
	+ Strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect
	+ Relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
	+ Transition words and phrases
	+ Precise and sophisticated language
	+ A formal style/tone
	+ A conclusion that shows reflection and provides the reader with closure

**Grade Eight Midterm Exam (January 2016) Scoring Rubrics**

**Part One: Reflection on Writing**

**Narrative Writing**

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| Based on a student's writing samples, this rubric assesses to what degree a student identifies two of the genre's characteristics, cites examples of their usage, and analyzes the degree of success from his/her writing sample |
| Mastery | Proficient | Emerging | Incomplete |
| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

**Analytical Writing**

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| Based on a student's writing samples, this rubric assesses to what degree a student identifies two of the genre's characteristics, cites examples of their usage, and analyzes the degree of success from his/her writing sample |
| Mastery | Proficient | Emerging | Incomplete |
| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

 **Part Two: Multiple Choice Questions Based on Paired Passages: an Informational Text (5 questions) and a Literary Text (5 questions). In Part Three, you will compose an extended essay based on the common theme/controlling idea found in both passages.**

**Score out of 40 (ten questions worth 4 points each): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Part Three: Extended Essay**

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| This rubric assesses to what degree a student provides text-based evidence *from both texts* as well as insightful analysis concerning that evidence. This information must support and illustrate the claim put forth in the student's essay. The student should be formal in terms of tone and language use while maintaining strong writing mechanics. |
| **Mastery** | **Proficient** | **Emerging** |
| 40 | 39 | 38 | 37 | 36 | 35 | 34 | 33 | 32 | 31 | 30 | 29 | 28 | 27 | 26 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 21 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Incomplete** |
| 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

**Final score: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Part Three: Extended Essay Format:**

**Paragraph One: Introduction (include titles and authors and central theme present in both passages)**

**Paragraph Two: ONE way in which the author of the FIRST passage conveys the central theme (include textual evidence from the passage to support your response)**

**Paragraph Three: ONE way in which the author of the SECOND passage conveys the central theme (include textual evidence from the passage to support your response)**

**Paragraph Four: Conclusion (a clincher statement that “sums up” the central theme found in BOTH passages)**

**Guidelines:**

* Cite and explain what particular theme is present in both stories
* Cite and explain what particular fears are reflected through these themes
* Compare the author’s ideas in each passage
* Be sure to use specific textual evidence from each text to support your reasoning

**Please remember to:**

* Show audience awareness through the use of **formal** and sophisticated language
* Proofread your work to eliminate writing mechanics issues and spelling errors
* Use formal essay structure (Introduction > Body paragraphs > Clincher/Conclusion)
* Use the planning page that has been provided to you