

**Released Items**  
**2011**  
**Achievement Test**

**Knowledge  
and Employability**  
**English Language Arts**  
**Part A: Writing**

**GRADE**  
**9**



**Government  
of Alberta** ■

*Alberta* ■

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## Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability

### English Language Arts

#### Part A: Writing

##### *Description*

**Part A: Writing** of the Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability English Language Arts Achievement Test consists of one assignment:

- **Assignment: Essay Writing**  
This section describes a situation to which you must respond in the format of a persuasive essay.

Before beginning to write, you will have 10 minutes to talk with your classmates (in groups of two to four) about the writing assignment or to think about it alone. During this time, you may record your ideas on the *Planning* pages provided.

**This test was developed to be completed in 80 minutes.**

**2011**

##### *Instructions*

- You **may** use the following **print** references:
  - a dictionary (English and/or bilingual)
  - a thesaurus
- Jot down your ideas and/or make a **plan** before you write. Do this on the *Planning* page.
- Write in pencil, or blue or black ink, on the lined pages provided.
- You are to do only **one handwritten copy** of your writing.

##### *Additional Instructions for Students Using Word Processors*

- Format your work using an **easy-to-read** 12-point or larger font, such as Times.
- **Double-space** your **final printed copy**.
- **Staple** your printed work to the page indicated for word-processed work for the assignment. Hand in **all** work.

**Do not write your name anywhere in this booklet.**

**You may make corrections and revisions directly on your written work.**

## ***Assignment: Essay Writing***

Read the situation below and complete the writing assignment that follows.

### **Situation**

Imagine that you are Cam Evans, a Grade 9 student. The school you plan to attend next year is considering changing its homework policy. The new homework policy will no longer require students to do homework. The community is divided in its reaction to the new policy.

Should the homework policy be changed? Write a persuasive essay for the school's superintendent detailing your point of view regarding the proposed homework policy. Consider the advantages and disadvantages of homework. Decide whether you support or oppose the proposed homework policy and convince others to support your point of view.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of persuasive writing is to present an opinion or point of view. It is an attempt to convince or influence the reader to agree or to accept your point of view or recommendation.

### **Assignment**

**Write a persuasive essay for the superintendent of the Centreville School Board that clearly states your point of view on the new homework policy.**

When writing the essay, **BE SURE TO**

- **state** your point of view
- **support** your point of view clearly
- **organize** your thoughts appropriately in sentences and paragraphs
- use **vocabulary** that is appropriate and effective
- attempt to **convince** the reader to support your point of view

## Ideas

The following material may give you ideas for your writing. **You do not have to refer directly to any of it.** Consider your own experiences gained through reading, listening, viewing, discussing, or thinking.



