

Writing Packet (Second Nine Weeks)

You are required to complete two writing assignments for each of the four grading periods in the school year. One of these assignments will be mandatory and the other may be chosen from a list of possible writing prompts. If you have an idea for some other topic, then we will discuss it to see if it will be acceptable. There will be a specific due date for the required writing. The second assignment must be completed within the first 8 weeks of the grading period. Twenty-five percent of your final grade will be determined by this writing component, which will consist of an average of the two grades.

You should remember to follow the Six Plus One Traits of Great Writing in writing this paper. As we study the content of this unit, you should consider different **ideas and content** for responding to this prompt. Once you have generated sufficient ideas, you should think about what is the best way to **organize** your paper. As you write, remember to use **voice**, good **word choice**, and **sentence fluency**. Once you have completed a rough draft, you should then go back and correct **conventions** remembering that **presentation** is important as well.

You will receive 72 points automatically for completion of the assignment. Quality points from 1 to 5 will be awarded for each of the seven traits listed above to determine your numeric score for the assignment.

This paper should be one full page in length, hand written only and no longer than one and a half page. Begin writing on the first line of a piece of loose leaf paper remembering to indent each paragraph without skipping a line between paragraphs. Your writing should be from margin to margin. Please attach a cover sheet to your paper for grading purposes.

The following pages contain the writing prompts and supplemental documents to assist you in completing your work. For any creative writing assignment, it is a good idea to do a RAFTS analysis prior to beginning your writing. These factors are described below:

Role	Who you are or who you are pretending to be
Audience	Who you are speaking to or pretending to be speaking to
Format	What form your writing takes (e. g. letter, speech, diary entry, newspaper article, poem, etc.)
Topic	The central theme of what you are saying
Style	A strong verb or adjective to indicate the feeling and/or style of the writing

Required (these writing assignments must be completed):

I Am A Bill

Pretend that you are a legislative bill that has made its way through the lawmaking process in Congress to become a law. Describe your exciting journey as if you are talking to your new family of laws. You should include as many of the steps in the process as possible, and remember that you are proud and happy to have made it through this process to become one of the laws of the land.

Benchmark Remediation Response

Following completion of our first benchmark assessment, you will complete a writing assignment intended to help you remediate gaps in your content knowledge as identified by incorrect responses on the test. The format for this paper will be two-column notes. Draw a line down the center of as many sheets of notebook paper as necessary, and use them to list and describe the important concepts missed on your Benchmark 1 assessment. Go through your answer sheet from this test and list the main topic of each question you missed. List each topic in the left-hand column and in the right-hand column give as much information as you can about the topic. Be sure to include a definition, examples, and/or important details. Do this for each topic. If you have a topic that repeats, you only need to cover it once. However, you must list it each time. Simply write “as above” in the right-hand column where the description would be placed. A specific cover sheet will be provided for you to use when you submit your work.

Your score will be based upon a percentage of topics completed. For example, if you missed 10 questions on your Benchmark 1 assessment, then you should satisfactorily complete a section for each of the ten topics that the missed questions were about. In addition to these, you will be given five other topics to include. The information about each of these five topics is included in this packet. Your grade for this paper will be determined based on the number of topics that are adequately covered. Each response will receive a score of full, half, or no credit. A base score of 70 points will be given for completing the assignment. The additional 30 points will be awarded based on a percentage of correct responses.

$$\text{Grade} = 70 + (30 \times \% \text{ correct responses})$$

Writing Guide for *I Am A Bill*
(due on November 18, 2015)

R. A. F. T. S. Analysis

Role	A legislative bill
Audience	Laws (bills that have made it through the process)
Format	Narrative tale
Topic	My journey through the lawmaking process
Strength	Excitement, fear, etc.

Suggested outline

- I. Introduction
- II. Body
 - 1. My beginning
 - 2. Going through the first house
 - 3. Going through the second house
 - 4. Meeting the President
 - 5. Possible veto and override
- III. Conclusion

Questions By Topic (Benchmark 1)

1. Five principles of American constitutional government
2. Five principles of American constitutional government
3. Five principles of American constitutional government
4. Five principles of American constitutional government
5. Five principles of American constitutional government
6. Separation of powers/checks and balances
7. Separation of powers/checks and balances
8. Federalism
9. Structure and powers of local government
10. What is a “constitution”?
11. Early documents that influenced the Constitution
12. Bill of Rights
13. Early documents that influenced the Constitution
14. Early documents that influenced the Constitution
15. Preamble to the U. S. Constitution
16. Preamble to the U. S. Constitution
17. First Amendment freedoms
18. First Amendment freedoms
19. Due process of law
20. First Amendment freedoms
21. Amendment process (Virginia)
22. Amendment process (United States)
23. National legislature
24. State legislature
25. Local legislature
26. Lawmaking process
27. Lawmaking process
28. Lawmaking process
29. Ordinances
30. Powers of the President
31. State of the Union Address
32. Powers of the Virginia governor
33. Checks and balances
34. State court system
35. U. S. court system
36. Judicial review
37. Judicial review
38. Criminal trial procedure
39. Civil trial procedure
40. Due process of law

Grading Writing 2-1
(Two-column notes remedial response)

The number of topics you must cover, in the form of 2-column notes, is to be determined according to the following:

of questions missed on Benchmark 1 + 5 additional topics (provided)

Completing and turning in the assignment on time will earn 70 points.

Once submitted, each response will be graded according to the following scheme:

Mark	Points
√	1
½	½
X	0

The total number of points earned will then be added to get a sum. This number will then be divided by the number of topics you were to cover to get a percentage. This percentage of 30 points will be added to the 70 points you receive for submission to determine your final grade.

Total points ÷ # of topics to cover = % coverage

% coverage x 30 + 70 = your final score

Example

Number of questions missed: 8

Number of topics you must cover: $8 + 5 = 13$

Points earned: 9.5 (based on the quality of responses)

Percentage of coverage: $9.5 \div 13 = 73\%$

Final score: $0.73 \times 30 = 22$

$22 + 70 = \mathbf{92}$