

## **RETIREMENT ESSAY**

Write a 5 paragraph essay. Use the **Writing Conventions** scoring guide **AND** the **Writing Content & Organization** scoring guide for writing your 5-paragraph essay and respond to the following writing prompt:

**Our nation is finding that individuals are not preparing for retirement early enough. Many are counting on social security which is estimated to be drained within the next 20 years. Considering this problem, what advice would you give to seniors in high school on preparing for retirement? Address the facts on why to save, how to save, the different types of investments and the advantages of starting early.**

## **ESSAY WRITING GUIDELINES**

Use a 5 paragraph essay format to write your essay. These are helpful suggestions to guide you through writing your essay.

### **1. Introductory paragraph**

- **What is an introduction paragraph?**  
The introduction paragraph is the first paragraph of your essay.
- **What does it do?**  
It introduces the main idea of your essay. A good opening paragraph captures the interest of your reader and tells why your topic is important.
- **How do I write one?**
  - Write the thesis statement. The main idea of the essay is stated in a single sentence called the thesis statement. You must limit your entire essay to the topic you have introduced in your thesis statement.
  - Provide some background information about your topic. You can use interesting facts, quotations, or definitions of important terms you will use later in the essay.

**Example:** Hockey has been a part of life in Canada for over 120 years. It has evolved into an extremely popular sport watched and played by millions of Canadians. The game has gone through several changes since hockey was first played in Canada.

### **2, Supporting Paragraphs 2, 3, & 4**

- **What are supporting paragraphs?**  
Supporting paragraphs make up the main body of your essay.
- **What do they do?**  
They develop the main idea of your essay.
- **How do I write them?**
  - List the points that develop the main idea of your essay.
  - Place each supporting point in its own paragraph.
  - Develop each supporting point with facts, details, and examples.
- To connect your supporting paragraphs, you should use special transition words. Transition words link your paragraphs together and make your essay easier to read. Use them at the beginning and end of your paragraphs. Here are some examples of transition words that can help you to link your paragraphs together:
  - For listing different points you may use transition words such as: First, Second, Third.
  - For counter examples you may use transition words such as: However, Even though, On the other hand, Nevertheless.
  - For additional ideas you may use transition words such as: Another, In addition to, Related to, Furthermore, Also.
  - To show cause and effect you may use transition words such as: Therefore, Thus, As a result of, Consequently

Like all good paragraphs, each supporting paragraph should have a topic sentence, supporting sentences, and a summary sentence.

### **3. Summary Paragraph**

#### **What is a summary paragraph?**

The summary paragraph comes at the end of your essay after you have finished developing your ideas. The summary paragraph is often called a "conclusion."

#### **What does it do?**

It summarizes or restates the main idea of the essay. You want to leave the reader with a sense that your essay is complete.

#### **How do I write one?**

1. Restate the strongest points of your essay that support your main idea.
2. Conclude your essay by restating the main idea in different words.
3. Give your personal opinion or suggest a plan for action.

**Example:** Overall, the changes that occurred in hockey have helped to improve the game. Hockey is faster and more exciting as a result of changes in the past 120 years. For these reasons, modern hockey is a better game than hockey in the 1890s.

## Retirement Essay Grading Rubric

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>4 - Above Standard</b>	<b>3 - Meets Standard</b>	<b>2 - Approaching Standard</b>	<b>1 - Below Standard</b>
<b>Grammar &amp; Spelling</b>	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.
<b>Capitalization &amp; Punctuation</b>	Writer makes no errors in capitalization or punctuation, so the paper is exceptionally easy to read.	Writer makes 1 or 2 errors in capitalization or punctuation, but the paper is still easy to read.	Writer makes a few errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and interrupt the flow.	Writer makes several errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and greatly interrupt the flow.
<b>Sentence Structure and Fragments</b>	All sentences are well-constructed with varied structure. No fragments, run-on, or incomplete sentences.	Most sentences are well-constructed with varied structure. 1-2 fragments, run-on, or incomplete sentences.	Most sentences are well-constructed but have a similar structure. More than 2 fragments, run-on, or incomplete sentences.	Sentences lack structure and appear incomplete or rambling with multiple sentence fragments. Sentences are disjointed and awkward.
<b>Content - Focus on Topic</b>	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information.	Main idea is clear but the supporting information is general.	Main idea is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information.	The main idea is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information.
<b>Content - Accuracy of Facts</b>	All supportive facts are reported accurately.	Almost all supportive facts are reported accurately.	Some supportive facts are reported accurately.	NO facts are reported OR most are inaccurately reported.
<b>Organization</b>	Organization is a logical progression of ideas/events and is unified and complete.	There is a logical progression of ideas/events and is reasonably complete, although minor lapses may be present.	One or more major lapses in the logical progression of ideas/events are evident.	Ideas/events are presented in a random fashion
<b>Audience</b>	Demonstrates a clear understanding of the potential reader and uses appropriate vocabulary and arguments. Anticipates reader's questions and provides thorough answers appropriate for that audience.	Demonstrates a general understanding of the potential reader and uses vocabulary and arguments appropriate for that audience.	Demonstrates some understanding of the potential reader and uses arguments appropriate for that audience.	It is not clear who the author is writing for.