

# ESSAY



**Essay is a subjective test.**

**Each student's essay is read and independently scored by two judges; the two scores are averaged. If there is a 200+ point differential, a 3<sup>rd</sup> reading is required and the divergent score is replaced by the third reader.**

**Essay scores are NOT subject to appeal.**

**All Essay Booklets\* and Test Answer Sheets are the sole property of WIAD and are not released to the school, nor released to the general public.**

**\*Essay booklets are returned to the advancing teams only – to prepare for the next level of competition.**

# WISCONSIN ACADEMIC DECATHLON

## ESSAY FORMAT & RULES FOR REGIONAL COMPETITION

*Essay writing is done in the local high schools prior to the January competition.*

**Essay Writing Test Window: December 6 or 7, 2011**

### GENERAL

The essay writing is a required part of the nine-event Regional Competition. The essay prompt will be based on the novel – ***Heart of Darkness*** by Joseph Conrad.

**The specific topics or questions are never given out in advance of the established test time.**

The essay topic is associated with an identified area of study. Total value of the essay is 1000 points.

### ESSAY WRITING RULES

Established rules are set forth by the Wisconsin Academic Decathlon Office for the mailing of information, administering or proctoring of the test, and the return of the written essays through the ***Principal*** of your High School.

*No one may assist the student with the writing of the essay or review any papers after completion.*

**No person directly associated with the coaching of the Academic Decathlon team may serve as Proctor, or be in possession of the essay topic materials.**

- **Essay must be written during the December 6 or 7 test window – before, during, or after school.**
- **All nine (9) students on Decathlon team must write the essay at the same time.**
- **There is no make-up of the essay test.**
- **Absent students (regardless of reason) will receive a “0” score.**
- **If a student does NOT address the assigned topic, the essay will receive a “0” score.**

**Coach may request up to three EXTRA essay booklets for alternate students if coach had a double team at Local Competition, or if alternates were carried on the Local team.**

E-mail request to [mmarcks@cesa7.k12.wi.us](mailto:mmarcks@cesa7.k12.wi.us) two weeks prior to Essay Test Window.

**Note: Essay rules, procedures and supplies are mailed to the principal approximately one week prior to the test window.**

If any coach or team members fail to follow the rules and regulations, this may result in disqualification of essay scores and/or the team. **The final decision rests with the State Director.** All essays must be written in the official booklet supplied by the WIAD Office.

## **SCORING**

Each essay will be independently read and scored by two judges. The two scores are averaged.

**The maximum value to the Essay is 1000 points.**

Refer to Essay Rubric on evaluation form on the next page.



## **PROCTOR INSTRUCTIONS**

Each student is given an essay booklet. **The student is to legibly print their name on the front of the booklet.** No other information should be written on the front cover.

The essay can be written only in this booklet. Students may write with pencil or ink.

**Other papers, word processors, dictionaries, radios, earphones, cell phones, iPods, coats, hats, or other misc. items are NOT permitted at the desks or tables.**

Students are to be instructed not to open their test booklets until everyone is set and you are ready to start timing.

The essay prompt is printed on a colored sheet and can be found in the inside of the front cover of the essay booklet. **The students are to be timed exactly for 50 minutes.**

At the conclusion of the test period, the proctor is to collect and account for all nine essays (and up to three alternates' essays). Place them in the envelope provided for return mail. Follow the mailing instructions and promptly return the essays to the Green Bay Office.

## **CONTESTANT INSTRUCTIONS — given by the Test Proctor to students**

"You will be given two essay prompts. Note the number of the prompt selected on the first page of your essay. Explain the meaning of the prompt or question and support your position in several well-developed paragraphs with specific examples from your reading. Provide a final paragraph that offers a logical conclusion to your essay.

Be sure to include adequate transitions between your ideas and to follow the accepted rules of standard English sentence structure, usage, spelling, and punctuation. Maintain legible handwriting. Allow yourself time for proofreading and correcting your essay. Use a pen or pencil, but avoid messy cross outs.

You will be graded on your ability to:

1. Organize ideas in logical patterns appropriate to the purpose of the assignment.
2. Present these ideas using effective vocabulary and written structures appropriate to formal standards of written communication in English.
3. Use mechanical skills of standard English (punctuation, grammar and spelling) that facilitates communication and are acceptable in formal writing.

You have **50 minutes** for this contest. You will get a five-minute warning after 45 minutes of time has elapsed. Allow yourself time for proofreading and correcting your essay."