

## **6-8<sup>th</sup> GRADE WRITING COMPETENCY GUIDELINES**

### **Mountain Oaks School**

#### **Two Purposes of Competency:**

- To demonstrate that students are able to write a 5-paragraph essay spontaneously, in one untimed sitting, in their own handwriting.
- To demonstrate they understand the process of writing as demonstrated in two additional genres.

#### **General Guidelines:**

- Writing workshops are open to students in grades 6 and above.
- Workshops should be offered every semester @ SA and 1x annually @ satellites.
- Workshops and mentors will address the 7 major types of essays:
  1. Expository
  2. Narrative
  3. Persuasive
  4. Compare/Contrast
  5. Descriptive
  6. Business/Personal Letter
  7. Response to Literature

#### **Each Student's Competency Portfolio Should Include:**

- One sample is to be an expository essay, done in traditional 5-paragraph format, handwritten by the student in a proctored environment. This essay should be untimed and done to a prompt provided by the proctor which the student has not seen before. (A choice of prompts will be given to the student.) This essay will be evaluated by two mentor teachers and must receive at least 80% from each teacher to pass.
- Two samples chosen from categories 2 to 7 above. Possible prompts for the additional 2 essays will be chosen by the teacher. These essays will be evaluated by the mentor teacher only and must receive 80% to pass.
- The Competency Portfolio should include the following items for the 2 additional essays:
  1. mind map/outline/pre-write
  2. rough draft(s)
  3. final draft – may be typed
- Specific accommodations/modifications indicated as part of the student's IEP or 504 Plan should be indicated on the test/rubric if they were used during the testing.
- A separate file/folder should be kept by the mentor teacher for each 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade student containing the following competency materials: math competency test, constitution test and any supplemental reports/worksheets needed for points to achieve the passing grade, **and** all 3 of the writing essays with assessment rubrics attached.

Approved 12-9-09