

Written Expository Task: (Administered to Grades 3rd-12th grade)

“The Nature of Friendship”

Time: 5 minutes of planning after instructions

20 minutes of writing after planning

Materials: Students are provided a set of the instructions below in writing which includes the 7-point outline (bullets below) as well as lined paper.

General Instructions: You should read the prompt (what is in bold) to the students. Please do not modify the instructions.

At this time, I would like you to write an essay. Please write an essay on the topic of *friendship*. Friendship is very important to people of all ages – children, adolescents, and adults. Most people say they enjoy spending time with their friends. They like to talk with their friends in person or on the phone and spend time together.

The following outline will help you organize your thoughts and write a strong essay. In your essay, be sure to *explain* the following:

- What is friendship?
- Why is it important to people?
- How can friendship make life more enjoyable?
- What kinds of things do friends like to do together?
- How can people become good friends?
- What kinds of actions can damage friendships?
- How can people remain good friends over time?

Keep this list of questions in front of you as you write your essay. As you answer each question, try to write a full paragraph of your own ideas. You will have 20 minutes to complete your work. I have given you paper to use in writing your essay. Please complete the top portion.

As you do this work, use your best writing style with complete sentences and correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. If you aren't sure how to spell a word, make your best guess. Try to write neatly, using a pen or pencil. If you make a mistake, just cross it out or use an eraser. Keep going until I ask you to stop writing.

Do you have any questions? Remember, the title of your writing is “The Nature of Friendship.” You may start planning.

Wait 5 minutes

Now you will write. You may use your planning sheet. You have 20 minutes to complete your story. You may begin.

Wait 20 minutes

Gather up the writings and place them back in the envelope.

Name: _____

Planning Sheet for “The Nature of Friendship”

The following outline will help you organize your thoughts and write a strong essay. In your essay, be sure to *explain* the following:

- What is friendship?

- Why is it important to people?

- How can friendship make life more enjoyable?

- What kinds of things do friends like to do together?

- How can people become good friends?

- What kinds of actions can damage friendships?

- How can people remain good friends over time?