

Released Items
2011
Achievement Test

**Knowledge
and Employability**
English Language Arts
Part A: Writing

GRADE
9



**Government
of Alberta ■**

Alberta ■

Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.

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Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability

English Language Arts

Part A: Writing

Description

Part A: Writing of the Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability English Language Arts Achievement Test consists of one assignment:

- **Assignment: Essay Writing**
This section describes a situation to which you must respond in the format of a persuasive essay.

Before beginning to write, you will have 10 minutes to talk with your classmates (in groups of two to four) about the writing assignment or to think about it alone. During this time, you may record your ideas on the *Planning* pages provided.

This test was developed to be completed in 80 minutes.

2011

Instructions

- You **may** use the following **print** references:
 - a dictionary (English and/or bilingual)
 - a thesaurus
- Jot down your ideas and/or make a **plan** before you write. Do this on the *Planning* page.
- Write in pencil, or blue or black ink, on the lined pages provided.
- You are to do only **one handwritten copy** of your writing.

Additional Instructions for Students Using Word Processors

- Format your work using an **easy-to-read** 12-point or larger font, such as Times.
- **Double-space** your **final printed copy**.
- **Staple** your printed work to the page indicated for word-processed work for the assignment. Hand in **all** work.

Do not write your name anywhere in this booklet.

You may make corrections and revisions directly on your written work.

Assignment: Essay Writing

Read the situation below and complete the writing assignment that follows.

Situation

Imagine that you are Cam Evans, a Grade 9 student. The school you plan to attend next year is considering changing its homework policy. The new homework policy will no longer require students to do homework. The community is divided in its reaction to the new policy.

Should the homework policy be changed? Write a persuasive essay for the school's superintendent detailing your point of view regarding the proposed homework policy. Consider the advantages and disadvantages of homework. Decide whether you support or oppose the proposed homework policy and convince others to support your point of view.

Purpose

The purpose of persuasive writing is to present an opinion or point of view. It is an attempt to convince or influence the reader to agree or to accept your point of view or recommendation.

Assignment

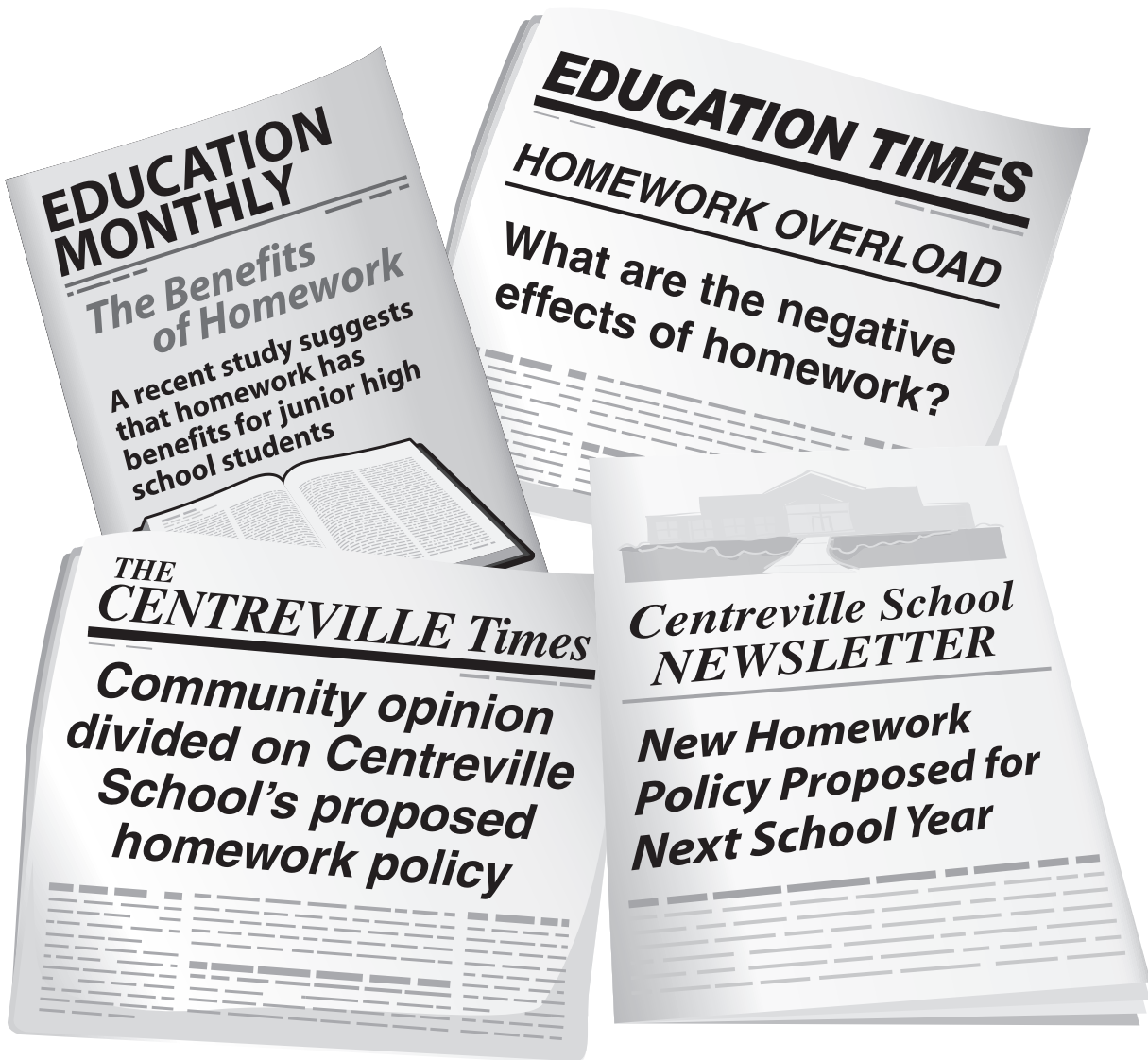
Write a persuasive essay for the superintendent of the Centreville School Board that clearly states your point of view on the new homework policy.

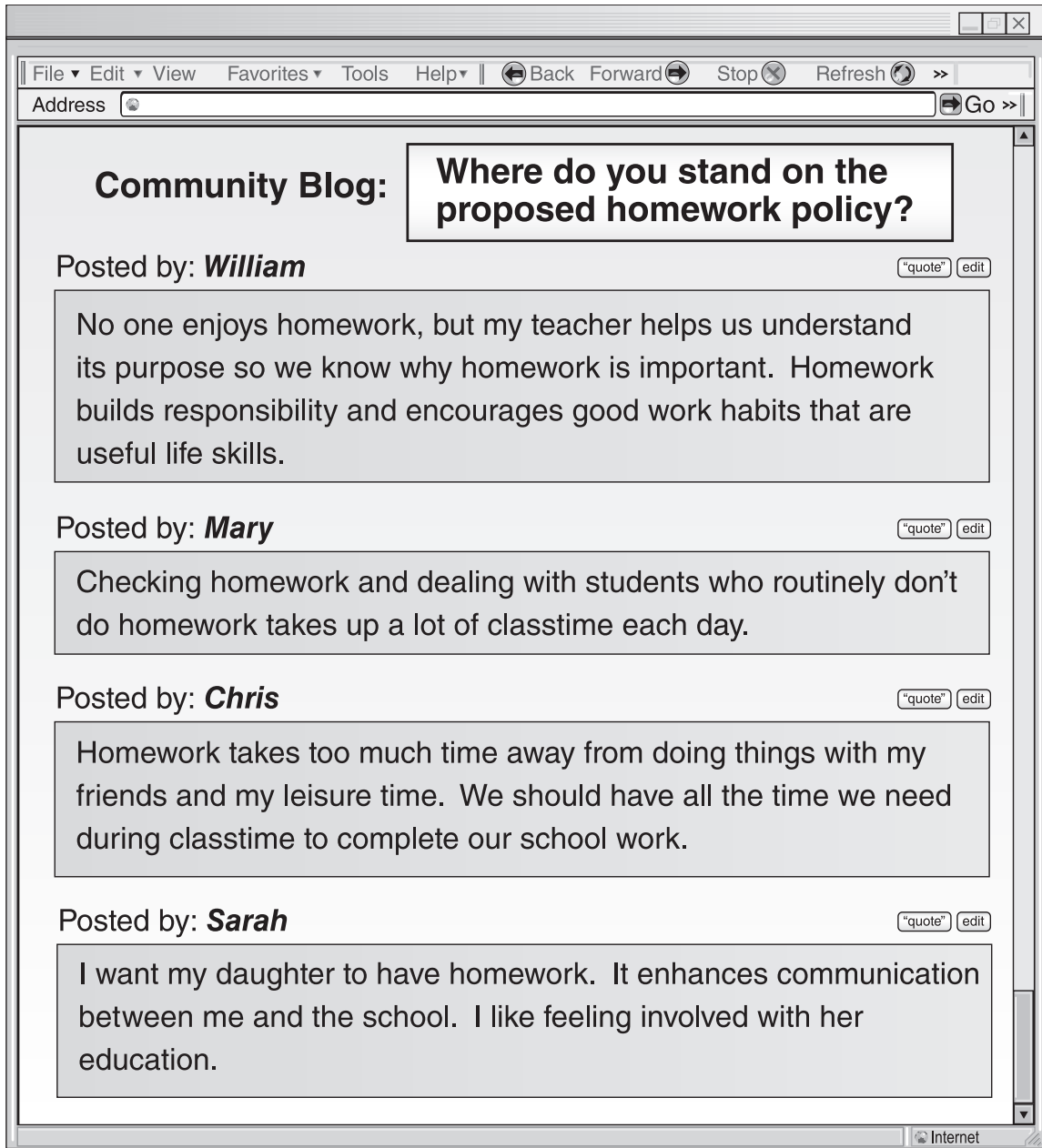
When writing the essay, **BE SURE TO**

- **state** your point of view
- **support** your point of view clearly
- **organize** your thoughts appropriately in sentences and paragraphs
- use **vocabulary** that is appropriate and effective
- attempt to **convince** the reader to support your point of view

Ideas

The following material may give you ideas for your writing. **You do not have to refer directly to any of it.** Consider your own experiences gained through reading, listening, viewing, discussing, or thinking.





Community Blog:

Where do you stand on the proposed homework policy?

Posted by: **William**

["quote"](#) [edit](#)

No one enjoys homework, but my teacher helps us understand its purpose so we know why homework is important. Homework builds responsibility and encourages good work habits that are useful life skills.

Posted by: **Mary**

["quote"](#) [edit](#)

Checking homework and dealing with students who routinely don't do homework takes up a lot of classtime each day.

Posted by: **Chris**

["quote"](#) [edit](#)

Homework takes too much time away from doing things with my friends and my leisure time. We should have all the time we need during classtime to complete our school work.

Posted by: **Sarah**

["quote"](#) [edit](#)

I want my daughter to have homework. It enhances communication between me and the school. I like feeling involved with her education.

