Student’s Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# College Prep ELA End-of-Course Essay

**Use the paper or blue book provided to plan, outline, and write a well-developed, clearly organized essay of about 400-600 words (four to five paragraphs) over the following topic:**

***[INSTRUCTORS: INSERT ESSAY TOPICS HERE—SEE LIST OF SUGGESTED TOPICS OR CHOOSE YOUR OWN—you may want to offer students two topics and have them choose one]***

Your essay will be evaluated with a pass/fail score based on how well it demonstrates the following nine essay skills and avoids grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

Essay Skills:

1. Essay addresses the writing prompt accurately.
2. Essay contains a clear thesis statement.
3. Essay maintains focus on its thesis.
4. Essay contains an interesting introductory paragraph and thoughtful concluding paragraph.
5. Essay demonstrates a clear organizational pattern.
6. Essay contains two or more support paragraphs and is of adequate length to develop the thesis.
7. Support paragraphs include specific details.
8. Support paragraphs are unified.
9. Essay uses appropriate language for the writing situation.

Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation Errors:

*Avoid the following eight major errors. Five or more major errors results in an automatic fail.*

1. Sentence fragment
2. Fused sentence/run-on sentence
3. Comma splice
4. Subject-verb agreement error
5. Pronoun agreement error
6. Awkward/incoherent sentence structure
7. Spelling error (3 sp/ww errors = 1 major error) (Illegible words will be counted as spelling errors)
8. Wrong word error (ex. their/there) (3 sp/ww errors = 1 major error)

*Avoid other errors:* pronoun case or reference error, faulty parallelism, omitted word, incorrect or missing article (*the, an, a*), wrong or missing preposition, wrong or missing verb ending, wrong tense or verb form, incorrect adjective/adverb usage, misplaced/dangling modifier, double negative, etc.

Guidelines:

1. Power down all your electronic devices and turn them in to the teacher before the test begins.
2. You may use a desktop dictionary if needed.
3. You will have two hours to plan and handwrite your essay. Recommended timeline:
   1. Use the **first thirty minutes** or so to brainstorm ideas, develop your thesis statement, and create a scratch outline.
   2. Use the next **hour and fifteen minutes** to write your essay:
      * Use blue or black ink pen, not pencil
      * Write only on the front side of each page
      * Skip every other line
      * Write neatly, although a few crossed-through words are allowed
   3. Use the **last fifteen minutes** to revise and edit your essay. Refer to the list of essay skills and grammar errors to check carefully for any problems that should be corrected.