

Introductory Essay - 9th Grade English

Greetings Freshmen,

Welcome to your first year of high school! Four years may seem like a long time, but before you know it, you'll be off to college and/or the working world! But, before that day can come, there is work to be done; and it's best to work with a plan.

I would like you to come up with a general plan for the first year of your high school career, and write it in a four paragraph essay in MLA format with 12 pt. Times New Roman font and 1" margins. Your name, the teacher's name, the class title, and the date should be at the upper left corner of your paper.

For a complete guide to MLA formatting, see:

http://www.csus.edu/owl/index/mla/mla_format.htm

Format

Come up with a creative title for your paper, and then follow the template below:

Paragraph 1

Introduce yourself. Who are you? What makes you uniquely you? What are you good at? What is your family like? What are your friends like? What is the most important thing in the world to you?

Paragraph 2

What are your school goals? What do you see as your greatest academic strength? What is your most significant academic weakness?

How have you done in school in the past, particularly last year in your first year of high school? What do you want to improve upon in school this year overall and in English specifically? What helps you achieve in class? What keeps you from achieving?

Paragraph 3

Outside of school, what do you want to improve upon? Is there some new hobby you would like to take up or skill you would like to develop? Is there something you would like to be doing in your community? Is there something you would like to do for your family or friends?

Paragraph 4

How do you see yourself at the end of this school year? How will you have changed? Describe your future self and how your developments over the '14-'15 school year will have affected your attitude, demeanor, and appearance. Will you be standing tall and confident? Will you be pleasantly relaxing after all the work you've put in? Will you be running boldly toward new goals? Describe the image of yourself that you see.

Grading Rubric

My essay is well organized, following the structure above. My essay is four paragraphs long, with an introductory paragraph, two body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph. ____/10

My essay provides essential information about myself and my goals according to the guidelines provided. Bonus points will be given for creativity. ____/10

My essay is properly indented and follows MLA formatting. ____/5

My essay is free of spelling and grammar errors. I use transitional words and phrases that join ideas and paragraphs. ____/10

Total ____/35