



WSL 's Incoming 7th Grade ELA Summer Reading Assignment

Scholar's Name _____

Dear Waterside Families,

Waterside School for Leadership is committed to doing everything possible to improve the reading comprehension and fluency skills of all of our scholars. Recognizing that reading should take place everyday and not just when school is in session, we have developed a Summer Reading assignment. The goal of the assignment is to ensure that all scholars are taking the necessary steps to progress in their reading levels as well as serve as a path to one of our first ELA units in the upcoming school year.

We have chosen the book The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton for scholars to read. The book is available at the library, or can be downloaded as a PDF: [Outsiders PDF](#)

Once scholars have read the book, they will be instructed to complete an essay that will be their first writing piece in their portfolio for the upcoming school year. They will also be completing a Word Generation article and assignment.

Expectations for Scholar Summer Reading assignment:

- Read 2 hours per week
- Complete Word Generation assignment: article, vocabulary sentences, graphic organizer, two paragraph claim/counterclaim written response, checklist
- Read The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton and complete essay
- Write an essay (**ON GOOGLEDPCS**) following the instructions in the provided assignment packet
 - If scholars are not able to access a computer to type their essay, there will be specific technology days at the school in which scholars may come into the building to type their essay

Outsiders Hero Essay Task: Write an essay explaining how different members of the greasers evolved into a hero. Pick two out of these three characters and justify why you believe Ponyboy, Johnny or Dally - could be considered a hero. Include your own definition of hero in the essay, and be sure to explain how each character, in his own way, meets your definition. Remember to support your ideas with examples.

Focus Question: What causes characters to change?

Background: Often people say that we must change to move forward. In literature we see a transformation in a character because of the experiences that they had throughout the story. Usually characters must overcome a challenge and this allows the readers to see how a character has changed from the beginning to the end of the novel.

Steps to Success:

1. Read the novel The Outsiders- helpful hints you can borrow this book from the library or you can download the book in a PDF form [The Outsiders PDF](#)
2. Keep notes about how the characters evolved into heroes
3. Use the Outline and Rubric to help you draft and publish your essay

Outline:

Introduction

____ Introduce your definition of a hero

___ Introduce the book you read (Title and Author)

___ Identify which two characters you believe could be considered as a hero and why

Body Paragraph 1 (Justify why you believe this character evolved into a hero)

___ Explain what your *character was like in the beginning of the novel*

___ Identify the situation that caused them to change and how it impacted their life

___ Justify how they evolved into a hero and link it back to your definition

___ Use at least two text based details

Body Paragraph 2 (Justify why you believe this character evolved into a hero)

___ Explain what your *character was like in the beginning*

___ Identify the situation that caused them to change and how it impacted their life

___ Justify how they evolved into a hero and link it back to your definition

___ Use at least two text based details

Conclusion

— ___ Use a concluding statement to signal the end of your essay and link it to the two characters you have identified as heroes

___ Explain why you think they are a hero

___ Explain if you think your character is better/worse off now that they have gone through this challenge and why

Self-Reflection: What was the hardest part about this assignment?

A. Reading the book B. Gathering evidence for the graphic organizer C. Writing the essay
Explain why you selected one of the above and what did you do to persevere through the assignment?

What was the easiest part about this assignment? Why do you think you found this less challenging?
What will you do to make it more of a challenge next time?

During the course of the story Ponyboy, Johnny, and Dally - could be considered a hero. Tell how each character, in his own way, meets your definition of being a hero by using evidence from the book.

Definition of a hero: _____

Character	Beginning	End
1. Dally	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2. Johnny	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
3. Ponyboy	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

This week's issue:

SHOULD SCHOOLS HAVE A VOCATIONAL TRACK?



Jerry is in the **vocational** track at his school. This means all his classes are geared toward preparing him to get a job after high school. In English class, he learns how to give a convincing job interview. His math class **focuses** on the ways businesses manage money. Jerry wants to be a mechanic. His favorite class is auto shop. In auto shop, students fix cars and learn how to work with tools.

Jerry attends a comprehensive or vocational high school. The school offers different programs for different types of students. Some students are preparing for college. Others, like Jerry, learn about different kinds of jobs such as hair styling, child care, woodworking, and cooking. Graduates like Jerry can get jobs in their field right out of high school. Previous graduates are working as hairstylists, plumbers, electricians, or medical technicians. These jobs do not require a college education, but they may require high-level math, reading, and writing.

Some people think vocational schools are **inherently** better than college preparatory schools. They think high schools should prepare students for whatever they want to do not make kids do every subject. Why should a student who is training for mechanics have to take chemistry or art if they will not need it in their jobs? People who support comprehensive schools point out that not everybody goes to college. These people believe that students who want to work right after they graduate might be more motivated to **exceed** expectations in school if they can take classes that will help them learn job skills. Because vocational programs include hands-on work experience, this can be an advantage for applicants in getting hired right after high school. Vocational school education students typically enter career fields faster than their traditional college counterparts due to shorter programs. Vocational classes also let students experience different careers. Then students can decide what is right for them.

Other people think high schools should prepare all students for college. They worry that students in vocational classes are getting a watered-down education and won't be able to get into college if their career goals change. People who support college preparatory schools believe that all students should have an **equivalent** education. They also argue that many of the vocational school careers are in lower-paying positions.

In addition, supporters of college preparatory schools say that vocational classes often require expensive equipment. They point out that high costs for equipment means there is less money to pay teachers or buy textbooks for other subjects, like English or math. They suggest that perhaps students who want vocational training should take special classes after high school to prepare for the jobs they want. Although vocational school graduates do learn practical skills, students really are on their own when it comes time to find a job. Despite what such schools may advertise, a degree won't automatically result in employment.

Should high schools prepare everybody for college? Or should students be able to enroll in a vocational track?

FOCUS WORDS WG 3.13 LO: I can determine the meaning of unknown words by using context clues. LO: I can accurately use vocabulary words.

Word	Sample Sentence	Based on the sample sentence what do you think the word means and why?	Try using the word in a sentence that can be incorporated into your essay.
Vocational	Jimmy is in the vocational track at his school, so all his classes are geared toward preparing him to get a job after high school.		
Inherently	Some people think comprehensive schools are inherently better than college preparatory schools.		
Exceed	People who support college preparatory schools believe that the value of an academic-focused education exceeds the value of job-focused training for high school students.		
Equivalent	School segregation ended when lawyers proved that schools serving black and white students were not providing students with equivalent educations.		
Focus	The focus of his math class is the way that businesses manage money.		

Word	Definition	Original sentence
Vocational	related to skill, trade, or occupation	
Inherently	naturally, a belonging to the basic nature of something	
Exceed	to be greater	
Equivalent	the same or equal than; to go beyond	
Focus	center of activity or interest	

Should schools have a vocational track?

My Claim

Reasons Your reasons shouldn't sound exactly like the text detail	Text Details Make sure you use the best detail in quotes to support your reasons	Commentary Explain how the detail supports the reason

Counterclaim

Reasons Your reasons shouldn't sound exactly like the text detail	Text Details Make sure you use the best detail in quotes to support your reasons	Commentary Explain how the detail supports the reason

Rebuttal

Word Generation: Should Schools Have a Vocational Track? 3.13

Schools (*should/should not*) have a vocational track because

The text supports this by stating, “

This supports my claim because

Another reason schools (*should/should not*) be able to have a vocational track because

As stated in the text, “

This proves my claim because

Lastly, students (*should/should not*) have an option for a vocational track because

According to the text, “

This text evidence demonstrates

On the other hand, others feel that schools (*should/should not*) be able to be geared toward vocational opportunities because

The strongest detail to support this counterclaim is, “

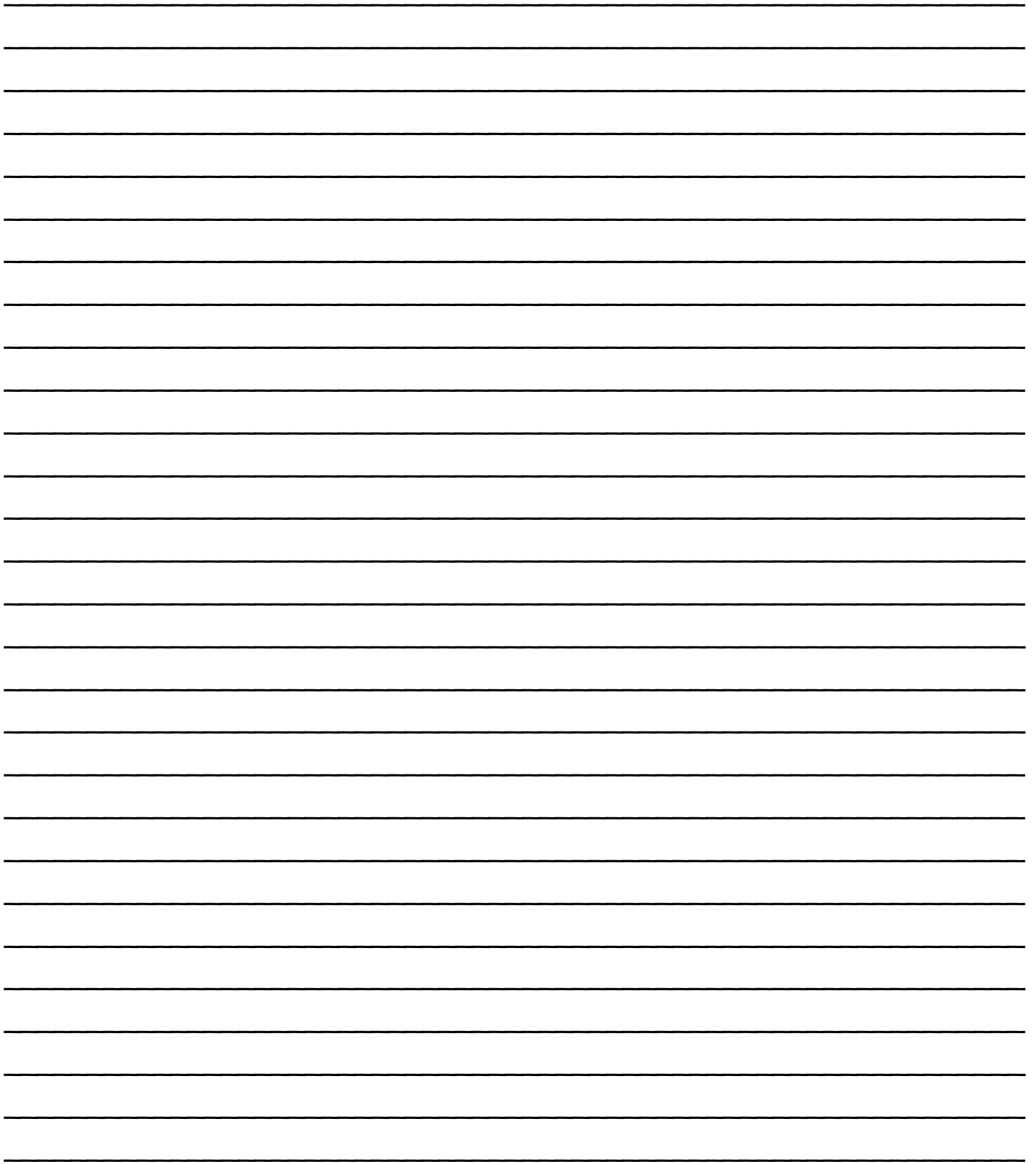
This shows why some people may believe this because

People may also say a vocational track (is/is not) the right approach because

The text states, “

This supports my reason because

Even though some say schools (*should/should not*) have a vocational track, I still believe the strongest argument is clearly that students (*should/should not*) have the option for a vocational track because



Scholar Name _____

Writing Trait	4 <i>Advanced</i>	3 <i>Accelerated</i>	2 <i>Approaching</i>	Points Earned
Claims Introducing and Concluding Argument	<p>There is a clearly articulated claim. Scholar takes a stance on the topic. The voice sounds knowledgeable and confident.</p> <p><i>-Scholar effectively restates the claim in a concluding statement.</i></p>	<p>The claim is clear. Scholar could have clarified his or her stance more. The voice sounds well-informed most of the time.</p> <p><i>-Scholar restates the claim in a concluding statement.</i></p>	<p>The claim is confusing. It is unclear what the scholar feels about the topic. The voice sometimes sounds unsure.</p> <p><i>-Scholar attempts to or does not restate claim in a concluding statement</i></p>	
Supporting Claims with Evidence	<p>The topic sentence contains a CLEAR and STRONG claim.</p> <p>The paragraph is supported with at least THREE strong reasons and pieces of text evidence.</p> <p><i>-Explanations are elaborated to support the claim.</i></p>	<p>The topic sentence contains the claim.</p> <p>The paragraph is supported with THREE reasons and pieces of text evidence.</p> <p><i>-Explanations support the claim.</i></p>	<p>The topic sentence contains a confused claim.</p> <p>There is an attempt to support the claim with reasons and/or text evidence.</p> <p><i>-Explanations somewhat or vaguely support the claim.</i></p>	
Supporting Counterclaims	<p>The topic sentence contains a CLEAR counterclaim.</p> <p>The paragraph is supported with TWO strong reasons and pieces of text evidence.</p> <p><i>-Explanations are elaborated to support the counterclaim.</i></p>	<p>The topic sentence contains a counterclaim.</p> <p>The paragraph is supported with TWO reasons and pieces of text evidence.</p> <p><i>-Explanations support the counterclaim.</i></p>	<p>The topic sentence contains a confused counterclaim.</p> <p>There is an attempt to support the counterclaim with reasons and/or text evidence.</p> <p><i>-Explanations somewhat or vaguely support the counterclaim.</i></p>	
Word Choice	<p>FIVE Word Generation words and transitional phrases are effectively and properly used.</p>	<p>Four Word Generation words and transitional phrases are effectively and properly used.</p>	<p>Two or Three Word Generation words and transitional phrases are effectively and properly used.</p>	
Conventions	<p>The essay has no or very few minor errors in punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and/or grammar.</p>	<p>The essay has a few errors in punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and/or grammar.</p>	<p>The essay has several errors in punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and/or grammar.</p>	

Additional Comments:

Total Points Earned: _____/20