

DIRECTIONS *for* STUDENTS



COMPUTER
WRITING STUDY

and Writing Prompt (Laptop)



As one of only a small number of Massachusetts students with a laptop in school, you have been selected to participate in an important Boston College research study. As part of this study you will be asked to write an essay. It is important that you take your time and do your very best on this essay. All essays will be scored by Boston College researchers and examined to your school and teachers. This essay is your chance to show how well students who use laptops in their school can write.

During this session, you will be provided 45 minutes to write the first draft of an English/Language Arts composition. After a short break, you will be provided an additional 45 minutes to complete a final composition.

During this first test session, you should

- plan what you are going to write;
- make notes or outlines and carry out other pre-writing activities; and
- write a *first draft* of your composition.

Throughout all of testing session, **DO NOT:**

- talk with other students,
- use your laptop to perform spelling or grammar checks,
- use the Internet (or any other external resources), or
- use any other computer programs

Any student found using their laptops spelling or grammar check will receive a failing score on this assessment.



WRITING PROMPT

After-school activities give students an opportunity to do something they enjoy outside the classroom. Some students play sports, while others might enjoy acting or other activities.

Your school wants to add some new after-school activities and is taking suggestions from students. In a well-developed composition, suggest a new after school activity and explain why students might enjoy it.