

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

English 11R

The Diagnostic Essay

In the beginning of an English course it is important to examine the writing level of each student; this examination will enable us to determine your specific writing goals. Towards this end, your first assignment is to write an essay of approximately 500 words (2 pages, 4-5 paragraphs) on **ONE** of the following topics. Please remember to write in essay format – with an introduction, body paragraphs and a conclusion.

Do remember to:

- ✓ Take about ten minutes to plan/organize your essay
- ✓ Try to be as specific as possible in your descriptions
- ✓ Try to include details
- ✓ Write so that I can read it
- ✓ Take about ten minutes to proofread and correct your essay when you are done.

Written Response Options:

1. Is reading fiction a waste of time? Why or why not? Explain your answer using specific reasons and examples to support your position.
2. Today's top professional athletes often have salaries and bonuses in the tens of millions of dollars. Do you think these athletes deserve such high compensation? Why or why not? Explain your position and use specific reasons and examples.
3. We all have a favorite activity that we enjoy. Write an essay convincing readers to try the activity you enjoy most.