**2019 KSA English Writing Contest**

**Guidelines**

1. **Persuasive Essay Writing (Offline Competition: May 24th, 7~9 pm, KSA)**

Participants will be asked to write a typical persuasive (opinion) essay about a controversial issuewithin a 2-hour time limit. Topics and instructions will be given out on the day of the event in the classroom. *Using dictionaries is not allowed during the essay writing contest.*

* *Example from a previous year’s contest*: Since the birth of the space race in the 1950s, scientists have speculated about and planned for an eventual manned mission to Mars. Estimates about the cost of such a mission range from about 10 billion dollars to 500 billion dollars. Can this cost be justified? Argue either for or against a country (or several countries working together) allocating resources for a manned Mars mission.

1. **Creative Writing (Online Competition: May 1st ~ May 31st, KSA Website)**

The creative writing contest includes three genres: fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Each has topics for students to choose from. Use Microsoft Word. Maximum 1,500 words, 11-point font size, and 1.5 line spacing are preferred, but not required. **An original title of your own is necessary.** All writing must be posted on [**http://human.ksa.hs.kr/gnuboard4/**](http://human.ksa.hs.kr/gnuboard4/) in the form of an attachment (a template file is available). Specify your name and genre in the attached file. The separate bulletin board will be open for uploading from 9am May 1st to 7pm May 31st.

1. **FICTION (SHORT STORY)**

**Topic 1: The Voyage**

The main character of your story awakes from a medically induced coma on a spaceship heading towards the outer limits of our universe. He/she recalls agreeing to take part in this expedition five years ago along with 12 other people, but when the time comes he/she realizes that the entire crew has died from unknown causes. Describe this situation and what they experience on this voyage.

**Topic 2: The Journal**

While the main character in your story is cleaning out his/her room he/she finds an old hand-written journal and decides to read it. He/she soon realizes that the journal he/she is reading is about himself/herself describing his/her past as well as the future. He/she then discovers that he/she is able to not only change his/her past but also the future by either erasing or adding new lines. Describe the events that take places in this character’s life and how this “journal” affects the character.

**Topic 3: The Island**

The main character of your story is stranded on an island. Describe this island in terms of what he/she sees and any circumstances that he/she has to face trying to survive it until or if he/she is rescued.

1. **NON-FICTION (ESSAY)**

**Topic 1: Location, Location, Location**

Tell the story of a location. Possibly one that is very close to your heart that you already know well, or a new one that inspires your curiosity. Pay particular attention to your own connection to the location, however small or large that connection may be.

**Topic 2: Childhood Stressor**

Recall what stressed you out most as a child. Was it the creaking stairs leading to the basement? Or being lost at the store? Explore your current relationship to that stressor. Did you ever move past that fear or anxiety? How do you interact with it now?

**Topic 3: Let It Burn**

If you could throw five items into the fire, what would they be and why? To be clear, by throwing them in this fire, there would be no trace of them left anywhere, even if it’s something on the Internet or a memory. This is a very powerful fire. What would the consequences be?

1. **POETRY**

**Topic 1: By George**

You can choose any name, but think of 3-5 notable figures or celebrities who share a common first name, and combine their personalities and physical characteristics into one piece of poetry. For example: George Washington, George Clooney and George Harrison.

**Topic 2: The Perfect Crime**

The perfect crime has been committed, however as opposed to a crime of passion, it’s a detailed, deliberate lawbreaking by a skilled criminal who is proud of their craft. Who, what, when, where, why and how?

**Topic 3: On the Field**

Write from the perspective of a sports ball (Baseball, Soccer, American Football, Tennis etc.) think about what the sports ball might feel, see, hear, think, and experience.