

**Gorman Learning Center Writing Program
Grade 4**

Each prompt has a code. For example, the first narrative prompt code is N4A. Please record the proper code on your essay to identify the chosen prompt when submitting it to the Writing Program. The top corner of the paper should include the following information:

Student Name
Teacher (IST) Name
Date
Grade Level
Prompt Code

One-Draft Writing (1 single-sitting essay)

The One-Draft Writing should be submitted in the first or second submission period (before the state-test occurs).

In fourth grade, California requires that you complete a writing test. Therefore, this prompt is practice for your test. You will be asked to write in one of three modes (narrative, summary, or response to literature). You will respond to the prompt in one sitting. You will not see the actual prompt until you sit down to write the essay. Please arrange with your IST to do the one-draft practice prompt.

You are required to complete one one-draft prompt; however, you are encouraged to submit up to three (one for each mode you may encounter on the test).

Narrative (2 total)

N4A: *Write a story about a treasure hunt.*

Imagine that you sit down and begin to read a book from your local library. When you turn the page to start the second chapter, you find a treasure map. Write a story about finding the treasure map and what you do once you find it. Use your imagination to make up an adventurous story, describing the exciting events that happen in your treasure hunt.

N4B: *Write a story about a character correcting a big mistake.*

Write a story where the main character makes a big mistake that he or she has to fix. Make sure that you introduce the character and explain what his or her mistake is. Then, write a story about what the character has to do to fix the mistake. How is the mistake resolved? What does the character learn from making, and fixing, the mistake?

Expository/Compare & Contrast (2 total)

C4A: *Write about the ways you've changed over the last two years.*

Think of what you knew and how you behaved two years ago. Compare and contrast what you were like two years ago with what you are like now. Choose at least two examples to show what you were like then and two examples to show how you have changed. Try to include internal changes as well as external changes. For example, growing taller might be an external change, while changing what you think or believe would be an internal change. What did you believe then, but not now? Do you behave differently now? What made you change?

C4B: *Compare and contrast yourself with a character from a book or a movie.*

Choose a character from a book or a movie, and write a paper comparing and contrasting yourself with that character. Be sure to name the character you choose (and the book or movie she or he is from). Write about how you are like the character, and about how you are different. Try to include at least two similarities and at least two differences in your paper. Be sure to go into detail and organize your paper in paragraphs.

Book Review (1 total)

For ideas on books to read and what you might include in your book review, be sure to check out the new “Reader’s Guide to Book Reviews” on the Gorman Writing Program website!

BR4A: *Write a book review.*

Imagine that a children’s magazine has asked you to be their book reviewer. Your job is to write about a book you have read. Give a brief summary of what the book is about. Then, write about your thoughts on the book: Do you like the book? Why or why not? Do you think other people should read the book? Why or why not? For what ages would you recommend the book? Are there people with specific interests who would particularly like the book? What else do you want people to know about the book before they read it? Make sure you organize your review into paragraphs.

Summary (3 total)

WHEN SUBMITTING YOUR SUMMARY TO THE WRITING PROGRAM FOR EVALUATION, BE SURE TO INCLUDE A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE. SUMMARY PROMPTS SUBMITTED WITHOUT A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE WILL BE RETURNED UNEVALUATED.

Z4A: *Summarize a newspaper article.*

Choose an interesting article from the newspaper and write a summary of its most important details. Be sure to state the article’s main idea and show how the article’s details connect to one another and support that main idea. You may also include why you think the article was written (the “context” of the article).

Z4B: *Summarize a magazine article.*

Choose an interesting article from a magazine and write a summary of its most important details. Be sure to state the article’s main idea and show how the article’s details connect

to one another and support that main idea. You may also include why you think the article was written (the “context” of the article).

Z4C: *Summarize an internet article.*

Choose an interesting article from the internet and write a summary of its most important details. Be sure to state the article’s main idea and show how the article’s details connect to one another and support that main idea. You may also include why you think the article was written (the “context” of the article).

Information Report (2 total)

R4A: *Write a report on two nations of California Native Americans.*

Research and write about two major nations of California American Indians. Include their historic and current geographic distribution, economic activities, legends, and religious beliefs. Describe how they have depended on, adapted to, or modified the physical environment to support their way of life. What were their lives like long ago? What are their lives like today?

Include a bibliography with your paper. For information on bibliography format, see the bibliography format link on Gorman’s webpage.

R4B: *Write a report on the changes the Gold Rush caused to California.*

Choose three important ways the Gold Rush transformed California and describe each in detail. Some questions to consider: What changes were there to the way goods were produced and consumed? What changes occurred in towns? What conflicts between diverse groups of people did the Gold Rush create?

Include a bibliography with your paper. For information on bibliography format, see the bibliography format link on Gorman’s webpage.

Revision (1 total)

V4A: *Revise an essay you have already submitted for evaluation to make it as strong as possible.*

Choose an essay that you have already submitted to the Writing Program. Consider the evaluator’s comments and feedback. Then, re-read your essay, thinking about what you could change and revise to make the essay stronger. Remember, revising an essay does not only mean “fixing” the mistakes. Think about other things you could do to make the essay better, as well. For example, perhaps the essay needs to be organized into paragraphs, perhaps it is missing an introduction, or perhaps it needs more descriptive details. Each essay will be different. You should respond to the evaluator’s comments, but also make choices based on changes *you* want to make.

After revising the essay, write a “reflection” of at least two paragraphs about what you changed, explaining why you revised as you did. Include your reflection (on a separate piece of paper) with the revision when submitting it to the Writing Program. ***Also, when submitting your revision to the Writing Program, be sure to include a copy of the original essay along with the evaluator’s comment and suggestions and rubric, so that***

we can see what you changed. Revisions submitted without a copy of the original essay and evaluation will be returned unevaluated.