

2021 LEC Essay Contest

Prizes: **Samsung Galaxy Tab A7 / Samsung Galaxy Buds Live / Samsung Galaxy Watch Active 2 / GOD JBL Pulse4 Bluetooth speaker**

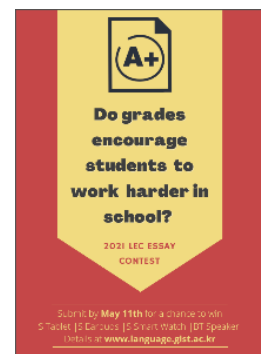
Deadline: **May 11th** (Tuesday), 11:59PM (late submissions NOT accepted)

Word count: **1200 words MAXIMUM**

Submission details: (1) **Do not include your name.** (2) Use your student ID number as the file title (e.g. 20195432.docx). (3) Submit your essay to gistlec.essay@gmail.com. In the subject line, write “**Essay Contest 2021**”.

TOPIC: Do grades encourage students to work harder in school? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Use this handout to get started if you are not sure how to begin.



I. **Brainstorm** answers to the following questions. **You do not need to include your answers to all of these questions in your essay.** Just use these questions to help you think of ideas.

1. Do you respect or think more highly of people who get good grades? Why or why not?
2. Is earning a high grade point average (GPA) important? Why or why not?
3. Do you exert less effort in pass/fail classes compared to letter grade classes? Do you make less effort on assignments that are not scored for points?
4. Do you make the same effort in all of your classes? If not, what classes do you try harder in? Why?
5. When school life is difficult, what makes you persevere and toil through the hardship?

6. Think about a time when you strived to do your best in school? Why did you put forth so much effort at this time? Were you trying to get good grades or were you working hard for a different reason?

7. Are you competitive? Does competing for a good grade push you apply yourself more?

8. Do grades encourage students to work harder in school? Are you motivated by getting good grades? Why or why not?

9. How do grades encourage students to work hard? What do students gain? How do they benefit?

10. What motivates you to work hard in school?

II. Circle the ideas in your brainstorm (Part I) that you want to write about. What would you enjoy writing about? What ideas and experiences are you willing to share with other people? What do you think others would want to read about?

III. Consider the ideas that you circled, and quickwrite about these ideas. When you quickwrite, don't worry about your grammar or spelling. Just write your ideas as fast as you can.

IV. Organize your ideas into an essay and revise. Read your essay several times and revise your content, organization, and grammar, so your main ideas can be understood by readers.