

DIRECT WRITING ASSESSMENT
High School • 2003

A Memorable Adventure

All students in Tam District high schools must show proficiency in writing in order to fulfill graduation requirements. This test is an opportunity to show your best first-draft writing. It will be familiar to you because it builds on what you did in 4th grade, 6th grade and 7th grade.

First you will read, think about and discuss a recent newspaper article by Zoltan Istvan who is a writer and an athlete. Then you will write about an adventure you had. We recommend that you take twenty minutes for reading and discussion or planning and forty minutes for writing. The entire process should take no more than one block period. Good luck and do your best.

Part I. Pre-Writing: Reading, Thinking, Discussing, Planning

Everyone has adventures; however, people find exciting events in different ways and for different reasons. For some, an adventure is a challenging white water rafting trip; for others, it is a volleyball tournament that ends a season of fierce competition. An adventure can be learning anything new: a new language, a new skill, or moving to a new school, cooking a special recipe or attending a concert.

The selection you will read is about the author's adventure volcano boarding. Read Zoltan Istvan's recent article from the *San Francisco Chronicle**. After reading, you may ask and answer questions, have small group discussions about the reading, or jot down some notes about what you understood, what you liked or what you have experienced that is similar.

Take up to twenty minutes to read, think about, discuss and jot down some ideas in response to the selection. Try to identify what the writer did, why he did it and what his thoughts were after the adventure.

Part II. Writing Prompt

All of us have adventures. Select one adventure you have had and in a well-developed essay, describe that experience in detail. Tell the reader why you chose to write about that experience and what it means to you now.

Make sure you

- include specific detail in telling the story of your experience;
- tell the reader the importance of the experience (reflection);
- edit your work to eliminate mechanical errors.

Take up to (but no more than) 40 minutes to write your essay.

* Your teacher or a student can read this to the whole class or you may choose to read it silently.

