

## **Allentown Central Catholic Writing Policy**

The writing policy at Allentown Central Catholic revolves around a progressive style in which topics are introduced and reinforced over the course of a student's academic career. Writing topics covered each year are essential building blocks to provide students with an exceptionally strong writing style. Teachers are not limited to the essay topics listed below; however, every student will have experienced these topics at the MINIMUM during their four years of English at Allentown Central Catholic High School. At least two of the essay topics will be formal, typewritten papers in MLA or APA format.

### **FRESHMAN YEAR:**

1. Familiarity with research
  - a. MLA, APA Format
  - b. Computer research skills including evaluation of websites, and familiarity with professional online databases
2. Development of the Five Paragraph Essay
  - a. Detailed look at the process of writing the essay
  - b. Construction of the thesis statement
3. Research Paper
  - a. Detailed look at the research process
  - b. Organization of research process focused on building the research paper
4. Literary Analysis
  - a. Focus on short stories, poems, plays and novels from curriculum
5. Descriptive Essay
6. Expository Essay

### **SOPHOMORE YEAR:**

1. Narrative Essay
2. Persuasive/Position Essay
3. Analytical Essay
4. Compare and Contrast Essay
5. Speeches – accompanying a PowerPoint, Prezi, or video presentation – 2-5 minutes in length

**JUNIOR YEAR:**

1. Critique Essay – students are encouraged to analyze material outside the curriculum
2. Argument and Persuasion essay
3. Literary Analysis
4. Speeches – accompanying a PowerPoint, Prezi, or video presentation – 5-10 minutes in length
5. Personal Essay – prelude to the College Application Essay – rough draft will be completed by end of Junior Year, with final polishing at the start of Senior Year

**SENIOR YEAR:**

1. Personal Essay – final polishing of the College Application Essay – first quarter of senior year
2. Compare and Contrast Essay
3. Critique Essay
4. Literary Analysis Essay – implementation of various literary terms and rhetoric applied to writing