

**International Leadership Charter High School  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade YLA Summer Packet  
Mr. Tavarez**

**Welcome to Youth Leadership Advisory (YLA)! Your first assignment will be to complete this packet. It will be due on your first day of 9<sup>th</sup> grade in September. I look forward to seeing you in the fall.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: Reflective Essay

A **reflective essay** is an essay that is about you and your thinking. However, you will need evidence to back up your reflections. While writing a reflective paper, you describe the things you have learned or express your views on some experience. Reflective essays are typically personal writings about an experience, but they can be made up as well.

### Elements of a Reflective Essay:

- Minimum 4 paragraphs
- Being subjective and including **personal emotions, feelings, and experiences**. In addition, there should be a **balance** between good and bad experiences.
- Investing time in reflective writing.
- Being analytical on the subject matter.
- Giving the writing a nice flow.
- Write in the first person.
- Writing experiences **in the past tense**, e.g., *I learned*,
- Include a Thesis Statement is what you learned from your experiences

### Possible topics:

1. What is something 8th grade did this year that you think you will remember for the rest of your life?
2. What is something you accomplished this year that makes you proud?
3. What was the nicest thing someone in our class did for you this year?
4. What was the most challenging part of this year for you?
5. What are three things you did this year to help your classmates?
6. What are the three most important things you learned this year?
7. What is something that was hard for you at the start of the year but is easy now?
8. In what area do you feel you made your biggest improvements?
9. Of the books, you read this year, which was your favorite and why?
10. What person at our school has made the biggest impact in your life this year? Why?

# Five-Paragraph Essay Outline

## **Introduction**

Thesis Statement:

## **Body Paragraph #1**

Topic Sentence:

Supporting detail:

Supporting detail:

Supporting detail:

## **Body Paragraph #2**

Topic Sentence:

Supporting detail:

Supporting detail:

Supporting detail:

### **Body Paragraph #3**

Topic Sentence:

Supporting detail:

Supporting detail:

Supporting detail:

**Conclusion** (restatement of thesis + *So what?* Idea)