

**2016/2017**

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Writing Assessment**

### **Reading**

**Read the passage below about two Louisiana Chefs. As you read the passage, think about which chef you would like to visit and why she or he appeals to you. Then use the passage to help you write a well-organized multi-paragraph opinion essay.**

### **Louisiana Chefs**

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a chef? This weekend you will have your chance to find out. Two local chefs, Monica Sallier and Andrew Gleason, will hold an “open kitchen” at their restaurants. Customers will be able to tour each chef’s kitchen and will even help prepare the chef’s favorite dishes.

Raised in Shreveport, Monica Sallier learned most of what she knows about cooking from her family. “Cooking was always going on in my home. I love watching my mother experiment with the food and seeing how things go together.” Monica’s restaurant, The Blue Hen, feels a lot like a country diner. Wooden tables and chairs cover the dining area, and a vintage jukebox sits at the back. “I like to laugh and tell jokes while I cook,” Monica said. “Cooking brings people together. The cooks who work with me have become my best friends.” Monica is also known for picking her favorite songs on the jukebox for the dinner rush.

At Monica’s “open kitchen,” she plans to teach her guests how to prepare country-style fried chicken. For this recipe, Monica uses her family’s secret spice blend. “My father always told me the spice had to give it some kick!” For the sides, Monica offers mashed potatoes, red beans, or collard greens. Monica rarely uses exact measurements when cooking. “I haven’t used a measuring cup in ten years,” she said. “I rely on instincts. If you come to my restaurant, you’ll never get the same dish twice.” Last year her restaurant was named Shreveport Restaurant of the Year.

Also opening his kitchen this weekend in Shreveport is Andrew Gleason. Although new to the restaurant scene, he already has earned a reputation as a skilled cook. Andrew excelled in culinary (cooking) school and is known for his attention to detail. “You have to be ready all the time,” he said. “On a busy night, the people are racing around you, the servers are looking for their orders, and it’s noisy. Sometimes it can be overwhelming, but that’s what I enjoy, the energy.” Andrew is the head chef at Quarter Bistro. Upon entering Quarter Bistro, visitors see a restaurant filled with tall booths lit only by candlelight. This is all part of creating a dining experience that is private and peaceful.

Andrew’s food also makes the dining experience special. He makes even simple dishes, like peach cobbler, look like pieces of art. “I am not the most talkative chef in the business,” Andrew said, “mostly because I prefer to focus on the food. Every ingredient must be carefully measure, every sauce perfectly seasoned. Cooking is an art.” At his “open kitchen,” Andrew plans to teach his visitors how to prepare blackened catfish, a recipe of his that has gained much praise throughout the city. When asked what makes it so special, he whispers, “Cayenne pepper, lemon juice, and crushed oregano. They create an unforgettable combination of flavors.”

## Directions for Writing

Write a multi-paragraph essay that expresses your opinion and tries to convince your teacher which chef's kitchen would be the best for you to visit. This question may help you: What are the similarities and differences between Chef Monica Sallier and Chef Andrew Gleason? Provide reasons as evidence to support your opinion.

As you write, follow the suggestions below:

- Be sure your essay has an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Use details from the passage to support your opinion and persuade your teacher.
- Write clearly and check for spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

## Rubric – Opinion Essay

	Ideas and Evidence	Organization	Language	Subtotal
ADVANCED 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The introduction skillfully pulls the reader in, the writer clearly states an opinion</li> <li>Logical reasons and relevant evidence convincingly support the opinion</li> <li>The concluding section capably summarizes the opinion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reasons and evidence are organized logically and consistently to persuasive effect</li> <li>Transitions successfully clarify the relationships between the opinion and reasons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The writing maintains a formal style</li> <li>Sentence beginnings, lengths, and structures vary and have a rhythmic flow</li> <li>Grammar and usage are correct</li> </ul>	
COMPETENT 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The introduction could do more to grab reader's attention, the writer states an opinion</li> <li>Most reasons and evidence support the writer's opinion, but they could be more convincing</li> <li>The concluding section restates the opinion and leaves a lasting impression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The organization of reasons and evidence is confusing in a few places</li> <li>A few more transitions are needed to connect the reasons to the opinion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The style is informal in a few places</li> <li>Sentence beginnings, lengths, and structures vary somewhat</li> <li>Some grammatical and usage errors are repeated in the essay</li> </ul>	
LIMITED 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The introduction is incomplete; the writer identifies a topic, but the opinion is not clearly stated</li> <li>The reasons and evidence are not always logical or relevant</li> <li>The concluding section includes an incomplete summary of the opinion and does not leave a lasting impression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The organization of reasons and evidence is logical in some places, but it often doesn't follow a pattern</li> <li>Transitions are not adequately used to connect the reasons to the opinion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The style becomes informal in many places</li> <li>Sentence structures barely vary, and some fragments or run-on sentences are present</li> <li>Several spelling and capitalization mistakes occur, and punctuation is inconsistent</li> <li>Grammar and usage are incorrect in many places</li> </ul>	
EMERGING 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The introduction is confusing</li> <li>Supporting reasons and evidence are missing</li> <li>The concluding section is missing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A logical organization is not used; reasons and evidence are presented randomly</li> <li>Transitions are not used, making the essay difficult to understand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The style is inappropriate for the essay</li> <li>Repetitive sentence structure, fragments, run-on sentences make the writing hard to follow</li> <li>Spelling and capitalization are often incorrect, and punctuation is missing in most places</li> <li>Most grammatical and usage errors change the meaning of ideas</li> </ul>	
			<b>Total Score</b>	