**“Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut and STAAR Writing**

**Persuasive Prompt: Handicaps**

**READ** the following quotation:

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

- James Baldwin

**THINK** carefully about the following statement:

In sports, handicaps are given to athletes to make good, average, and poor players competitively equal. For example, a faster runner may give a slower runner a head start.

**WRITE** an essay about whether students should be given “handicaps” at school.

Be sure to—

* State your position clearly
* Use appropriate organization
* Provide specific support for your argument
* Choose your words carefully
* Edit your writing your grammar, mechanics, and spelling

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**Prewriting suggestion**: What are your intellectual and academic weaknesses? What support do you need to be more successful?

**Steps to writing a successful essay:**

1. Pre-write well
2. Plan your thoughts – choose a side of the argument and list your reasons why
3. Draft your essay – actually write out a draft of the essay making sure to develop your thoughts well and offer counter-arguments as a means of dispelling any competitive arguments
4. Revise your essay for content
5. Edit your essay for grammar and usage
6. Make a final draft of the essay

**Class Expectations:**

1. Complete the prewriting as a journal entry (5 minutes)
2. Read the prompt and decide on a side to argue (2 – 3 minutes)
3. Plan your argument (5 – 10 minutes)
4. Draft your essay (20 – 25 minutes)
5. Revise/Edit your essay (10 minutes)
6. Transcribe into a final draft (5 – 8 minutes)