5. Essay

PROCTOR GUIDELINES:
1. Essay writing must be proctored and monitored by a counselor or administrator.
2. Essay should not contain any references to the student’s school name, district, city or town.
3. Essay should be handwritten in ink. Legibility will be taken into consideration in determining the final essay score. NO additional aids (dictionaries, computers, pre-written outlines, notes, or drafts, etc.) permitted.
4. High school and middle school principals will be reading and scoring the essays.
5. Essay length is limited to the 2 ½ pages provided.

Write an essay on the following topic:

Reflect on these words by American author and philanthropist Anthony Robbins.

"Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give something back by becoming more."

How does the societal views of privilege and opportunity lend itself to one becoming more?

Essay will count for 35 points of the final total score.

Please write your essay on this form using the 2 ½ pages provided (front only)

Everyone’s life is different. People might struggle with fitting in, being bullied, or even because you’re lower class. You let people win by stooping down and trying to live the so-called perfect life that everyone wants to live. Standing out has always been an insecurity of mine. I always wanted to look like the models on television or in magazines instead of realizing how beautiful I am and how I don’t need to change, society does. Growing up around families of four that could go to Disneyland every summer made me very bitter and jealous. I was always mad at my parents for having more than three children because we never got to enjoy the fun things my other friends got to experience. Now that I am older it has made me very grateful that instead of going to Disneyland, we stayed home and went camping. I got to learn life skills from my dad and was able to spend quality time with my family without spending thousands of dollars on a four day vacation. My friends and I had the same experience, but I learned how to be grateful for what I do have and to enjoy all the opportunities I do have.
I believe that everyone is given the same amount of opportunities, just some people use them differently. My parents are great, they have done so much for me and my siblings, but they would never hand something to me on a silver platter. I’ve had to work my tail off for many of the opportunities that I have gotten. Behind every opportunity door, I have opened, there’s another one right behind it. When you’re given an opportunity that will benefit your future, take it before someone else does, or you will come to regret it. Some people I have known, had opportunities, but never took them. They decided to go their own way and now they are complaining about it because they know they should’ve taken the opportunity when they had it. Complaining about something, you’re not working for or putting your full effort into, is completely pointless. While you’re complaining, there’s someone somewhere else that is working that much harder to beat you out of that opportunity. You have to work for all of the opportunities you want to have.

People always want to know what their purpose is in life. Most would say being a kind person, helping people out, or being an inspiration for others. Most of the time people don’t follow through with their plans because of how society today is. In today’s world you have to be funny or cool or popular to make yourself feel like you’re going to make a difference. Other people think that only celebrities can make a difference in the world because they are more privileged than they have, but celebrities are just everyday people and it shouldn’t take someone that you might not even know to inspire you, you should inspire yourself. You are only given one life, just because you think you’re a nobody doesn’t mean that you can’t become more than a nobody.

Opportunities and privileges are both things you can get if you do, then it will be far too late. Give all you have into this one life because you never know when it’s your last day. Give back to this life by becoming more and doing more for yourself.