**2026 Writing Entry Prompts**

**Writing Entry Prompt 1**  
Harriet Beecher Stowe once stated, “To understand Kentucky, one must feel its warmth and listen to its stories.” Storytelling is an integral part of the formation of identity – our communities and our own. The stories that our families and communities tell us about themselves and the world form our first map of the universe. **Write about and share with us a story that you tell or a story that you (and your family) will be retelling for years to come.** Hint: The story must be your own, and its telling should have significance to you. What is important to us is what the story reveals about you.

**Writing Entry Prompt 2**  
As a part of a local committee, you have been asked to submit a letter inviting a filmmaker to film a documentary on your life as a Kentucky high school student. They will spend a day with you as their host, providing a tour of your hometown and other places important to your life. **Write an invitation letter sharing the reasons they should select you, why the filmmaker should engage with the local community, and how the community will benefit from this production.** Hint: Consider how the documentary will represent your life and how your perspective may represent others in your local community.

**Writing Entry Prompt 3**   
As Kentucky author Silas House wrote in one of his novels, **“**most all of the extraordinary things happen with no more loudness than a whisper.” **Describe an experience you perceive as extraordinary, but that happened quietly.**  Hint: What you see as extraordinary is key to explaining yourself to your readers.

**Writing Entry Prompt 4**   
Every positive change, every jump to a higher level of awareness, every time to ascend to a higher rung on the ladder of personal trajectory involves a period of transformation. **Describe an experience that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood. What did you learn from this transition?** This could involve your culture (“rite of passage”), an incident in your community or family, or even a revelation of skills, ideas, life lessons, etc. Hint: Do not spend most of your entry on the details of your experience; what is important to us is your insight into the lessons you learned and/or knowledge you gained.

**Writing Entry Prompt 5**   
Wendell Berry, a Kentucky author, claimed, “It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work...The mind that is not baffled is not employed.” **What is something that baffles you?** Hint: What baffles us is likely something we think deeply about; identifying what this is should tell your reader about who you are and what you value.

**Writing Entry Prompt 6**  
Famous Kentuckian Muhammad Ali once said, “The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up.” **What’s your dream, and what would it mean for you to “wake up?”** Hint: How you define your dream in this scenario will tell us about who you are, so personalize that part of the response instead of using a generic concept of making one’s dreams come true.