

**Region IV AVID “Write-Off” 2004  
MIDDLE SCHOOL FINAL PROMPT**

Due Date: February 20, 2004

**Writing Task**

1. The words of famous people are often quoted, especially when it is thought that their words might suggest something true about life or about human nature. Other times, the words of famous people are offered as advice for how others should live their lives. Using the experiences you have had in your own life, you should be able to judge for yourself whether or not the words of others are relevant or true.
2. Directions: You have 45-50 minutes to plan and write a persuasive essay in which you explain the statements below and defend your choice of one over the other. Before you begin writing, consider the topic carefully and plan what you will say. You may cluster, outline or list your ideas on the pages provided. Your essay should be well organized and carefully written. Be sure to use specific examples to support your ideas.
3. Explain each of these contrasting statements. Select the one that more closely reflects your view. Cite examples from your studies, current events, or your experience to support your view.

**One of the serious obstacles to the improvement  
of our race is indiscriminate charity.**

**In charity there is no excess.**

4. ***Checklist for Your Writing***

The following checklist will help you do your best work. Make sure you:

- Read the quotation and the description of the writing task carefully.
- Organize your writing with a strong introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Use relevant and convincing details to support your ideas.
- You should anticipate the reader’s concerns, counterarguments, or opposing opinions.
- Choose words that are appropriate for your audience and purpose.
- Check for mistakes in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence formation.