

Northern Lakes Regional Academy Application Essay or Application Project

Northern Lakes Regional Academy applicants are required to write an application essay **or** complete an application project to help the applicant reflect on whether a S.T.E.A.M. focused and Project-Based learning environment is an appropriate academic fit. **Your essay/project will not be evaluated for admission standards, but completing the essay is a required part of the application process. Failure to attempt this work will result in an incomplete application.**

Option 1: Write an Essay

The essay should be between 500 and 750 words long (roughly 1 to 1.5 pages long).

Please answer one of the following prompts:

1. How would you benefit from a project based learning environment? How does the PBL approach fit your learning style?
2. NLRA is a S.T.E.A.M. focused school. S.T.E.A.M. means science, technology, art, engineering and math. Describe your passion for one or more areas of the S.T.E.A.M. focus.
3. Providing clear details, describe one project that you would like to complete while at NLRA. Explain how that project would solve a problem or help the community.

The essay needs to include the following:

- ___ Title section: Your first and last name in the upper left corner
- ___ Title section: Current grade level placed below your name
- ___ Title of essay (centered above the paragraphs, not in bold)
- ___ Topic sentences to paragraph(s)
- ___ Transitions (to begin with, next, in addition, in conclusion)
- ___ Multiple examples
- ___ Explanations for each example
- ___ Summarization of the main points

Formatting:

- ___ Line spacing: Double-spaced
- ___ No spaces between paragraphs
- ___ 12-point font, Times New Roman



Helpful tip: Read the essay aloud at least twice to catch any obvious mistakes. You must either email this essay to peteronje@ricelake.k12.wi.us or bring the essay to one of the ½ day NLRA shadow experiences.

Option 2: Complete one of the project ideas below.

If choosing to do a project in lieu of the written essay, your project must address one of the following prompts:

1. How would you benefit from a project based learning environment? How does the PBL approach fit your learning style?
2. NLRA is a S.T.E.A.M. focused school. S.T.E.A.M. means science, technology, art, engineering and math. Describe your passion for one or more areas of the S.T.E.A.M. focus.
3. Providing clear details, describe one project that you would like to complete while at NLRA. Explain how that project would solve a problem or help the community.

Pick one of the following projects to complete. The main focus of the project is answering the prompt you picked above:

1. Mobile
 - a. Create 10 or more items that represent the answer to the prompt that you picked. Each item should be hand-drawn and colorful.
 - b. Place the items together into a mobile. Example: Items can be hung by string to a clothes hanger to create the mobile.
 - c. On a Google or Microsoft document, write your first and last name. Next to your name state your current grade level.
 - d. On that document, create a key for each item on the mobile. Each item on the key needs a title and detailed explanation (at least one complete sentence).
 - i. The writing should demonstrate a command of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
 - e. The product should demonstrate creativity and innovative techniques. The finished product is required to be polished and worthy of display.
2. Children's Story
 - a. Create an original and entertaining children's book. The book should be at least eight pages long, not including the cover and back.
 - b. On the cover you should have a title, your first and last name, and your current grade level.
 - c. Each page within the book should include a hand drawn illustration. Make sure that the pages are colorful and inviting.
 - d. There should only be one to three sentences on each page.
 - i. The writing should demonstrate a command of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
 - e. The product should demonstrate creativity and innovative techniques. The finished product is required to be polished and worthy of display.

3. Comic Strip

- a. Create an original comic strip with at least twelve panels.
- b. Each panel needs to have a hand drawn picture with color.
- c. At least five of the panels need to include dialogue.
- d. The comic strip should have a main character and a strong plot.
- e. On a separate document, write a short description that explains how the comic strip answers the prompt. The description should be at least four sentences long.
 - i. The writing should demonstrate a command of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
- f. The product should demonstrate creativity and innovative techniques. The finished product is required to be polished and worthy of display.

Key/Description Formatting:

- ___ Line spacing: Double-spaced
- ___ No spaces between paragraphs
- ___ 12-point font, Times New Roman

Helpful tip: Read anything written aloud at least twice to catch any obvious mistakes. You must either email clear pictures of the project to peterjonje@ricelake.k12.wi.us or bring the project to one of the ½ day NLRA shadow experiences.