

Confirmation Saint Essay, Part 1

Due: October 17 drop off or email tomt@spfcpc.org

How is my saint an enduring example of discipleship for Catholics?

Choosing a Confirmation saint is **one of the most critical decisions you will ever make**. When you choose a saint, you are asking him or her to stand by your side for the rest of your life; you can pray to him or her asking for intercession, and you can build a relationship with that person that can bring you closer to God.

Since this decision is so important, it is necessary to not only be certain of your choice, but to have a variety of personally valid reasons why. During your Confirmation preparation, you will be asked to write essays that EXPLAIN your choice and PERSUADE us on why this person is the perfect match for you.

Here's how the two argumentative essays will work:

Argumentative Essay Part 1	Argumentative Essay Part 2
Completed at the BEGINNING of the research process	Completed at the END of the research process
<p>In this essay, you will be asked to explain your INITIAL reasons for choosing your saint. These might be surface level connections, coincidences, family histories, or personal connections that you ALREADY have with your saint.</p> <p>At this point, you can only do a SMALL amount of research or internet reading to help you. (Most of your research will happen later!) This essay does NOT require research to meet the standard; your answers should be personal and mostly based on information you already know.</p> <p>FYI: If at any point you change your mind and choose a DIFFERENT saint, you will not have to rewrite this essay. You will simply have to do more explaining in Part 2 about <u>why you changed your mind</u>.</p>	<p>In this essay, you will need to explain why this is STILL the perfect saint for your life, now that the research is done and you know more about him or her. Since you are an expert on your saint, you should have very detailed answers to make MANY connections between your lives, <u>and have additional reasons that you did not write about before</u>. This essay should <u>not</u> sound the same as the Part 1 essay.</p> <p>You SHOULD mention researched facts and draw upon your learning in this essay. Exact details for citations will be explained later.</p> <p>If you changed your mind since essay 1, you will need to include a paragraph explaining this change; I can show you how to do this later.</p>

Here are the details for Essay #1:

- **Minimum length:** 1 FULL page, double spaced. (This should be a MINIMUM that you are encouraged to exceed.)
- Exact number of paragraphs will vary, but you should still follow rules for good structure (introduction, organized body paragraphs, and conclusion).
- You ARE encouraged to use first person pronouns ("I") and tell personal reasons and stories; **in a way, this will feel like a narrative, but you are still persuading us as to why this is the saint for you!**

Sara Buckeye

Language Arts

Mrs. Sharon

November 19th, 2013

Sample Essay: For Critique (Hint: this is not perfect!)

When my I was told we had to pick a Confirmation saint, I knew I was in trouble. I had only become Catholic a few years before. My CCD teachers hadn't spent a lot of time on the saints, so I hardly knew any of them, aside from a few obvious ones like Mary. All I had was a big book of all the saints that I had to read. At first I liked the name Elizabeth because I thought it sounded good, but I soon found better reasons. I eventually chose Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton as my Confirmation saint because she is the patroness of Catholic schools, because she made a choice to convert to Catholicism, and because my Confirmation sponsor also has a relationship with her.

Elizabeth Ann Seton is the patroness of Catholic schools. She founded the first Catholic school system in the United States, too. Although I don't go to a Catholic school, I know I also want to be a teacher. She can motivate me to work hard as I go through college to become a teacher; when I become a teacher, I can pray for her intercession when I need help. Elizabeth Ann Seton won't just help me to be a good teacher; she will also help me to become a better Catholic.

Mother Seton also made a very brave decision to convert to Catholicism, which is an inspiration to me. Although I don't know all the details, I do know that her family was Episcopalian, not Catholic, and they did not want her to convert, but she did it anyway. Most of my family is not Catholic either, so I know how hard it can be to make that kind of decision when you don't have support. I can pray to Elizabeth Ann Seton to help me have the strength to be Catholic no matter what. My Confirmation sponsor will also help me to be a good Catholic disciple, too.

My Confirmation sponsor is my stepmom; she brought Catholicism into my life, so it makes sense if my Confirmation saint connects us. Cynthia attended a Catholic college called Seton Hall in New Jersey, where she is from. She also has relatives who were named Elizabeth Ann. Both Mother Seton and my stepmom will help me lead a better life in the Church.

Although I need to learn more about Elizabeth Ann Seton's life, I know that she is a role model for my life goals, and she means a lot to my family. She will help me to be a better teacher, a better person, and a better Catholic, along with my sponsor. Even when I was flipping through a huge book of saints, feeling lost, Mother Seton stood out to me above all of the others. Clearly, she is the best saint who ever lived and is awesome for anyone who wants to choose her. I am looking forward to writing 50 note cards about her life so I can impress people with random facts.

Your Name: _____

Confirmation Saint Essay Rubric: Part 1 Only

		4	3	2	1
Writing	Argumentative Genre W.1	Essay exceeds in purpose/genre through word choice, focus, tone, or other argumentative techniques.	Essay fits the (informal) argumentative genre overall; the tone and purpose are persuasive even when informing or reflecting.	1 criterion is not fully or consistently met at grade level.	2 or more criteria are not met or are below grade level.
	Reasoning W.1b	Essay exceeds in logic, reasoning, or the types and/or analysis of evidence presented.	Essay lists and explains a variety of reasons in order to support the claim that the saint is a personally wise choice.	1 criterion is not fully or consistently met at grade level.	2 or more criteria are not met or are below grade level.
	Overall Org. W.1a+e	Essay exceeds in organizational structure or development of ideas.	Essay has a clear, multi-paragraph organization with a beginning, ≥3 body paragraphs, and an ending that reviews and reflects.	1 criterion is not fully or consistently met at grade level.	2 or more criteria are not met or are below grade level.
Language	Grammar & Spelling L.2	The absence of errors indicates mastery of grammar and/or mastery of editing skills.	The general lack of errors shows mastery of grammatical concepts and/or editing skills.	Errors indicate either a partial lack of understanding in grammar or a lack of editing.	Documents show errors that indicate either a lack of understanding in grammar or a lack of time spent editing.

Turn In:	Effort Considerations	Self-Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/> Rubric <input type="checkbox"/> Part 1 essay	<input type="checkbox"/> Documents are printed on time <input type="checkbox"/> Formatting guidelines met <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum length met <input type="checkbox"/> Proofreading attempted	What did you do well?
Dcn .Tom Comments:		What should/could you still revise?
		What have you learned?