TCAP Writing Pilot
TCAP/WA

DIRECTIONS

In a few moments, you will see a passage(s) and a prompt. You are to plan and write an essay about the passage(s) according to the instructions provided in the prompt. This activity will show how well you write. Express your thoughts clearly and make your writing interesting to the reader. Your essay will be scored as a rough draft, but you should watch for careless errors.

Before writing, spend some time reading the passage(s), thinking about the prompt, and planning your thoughts.

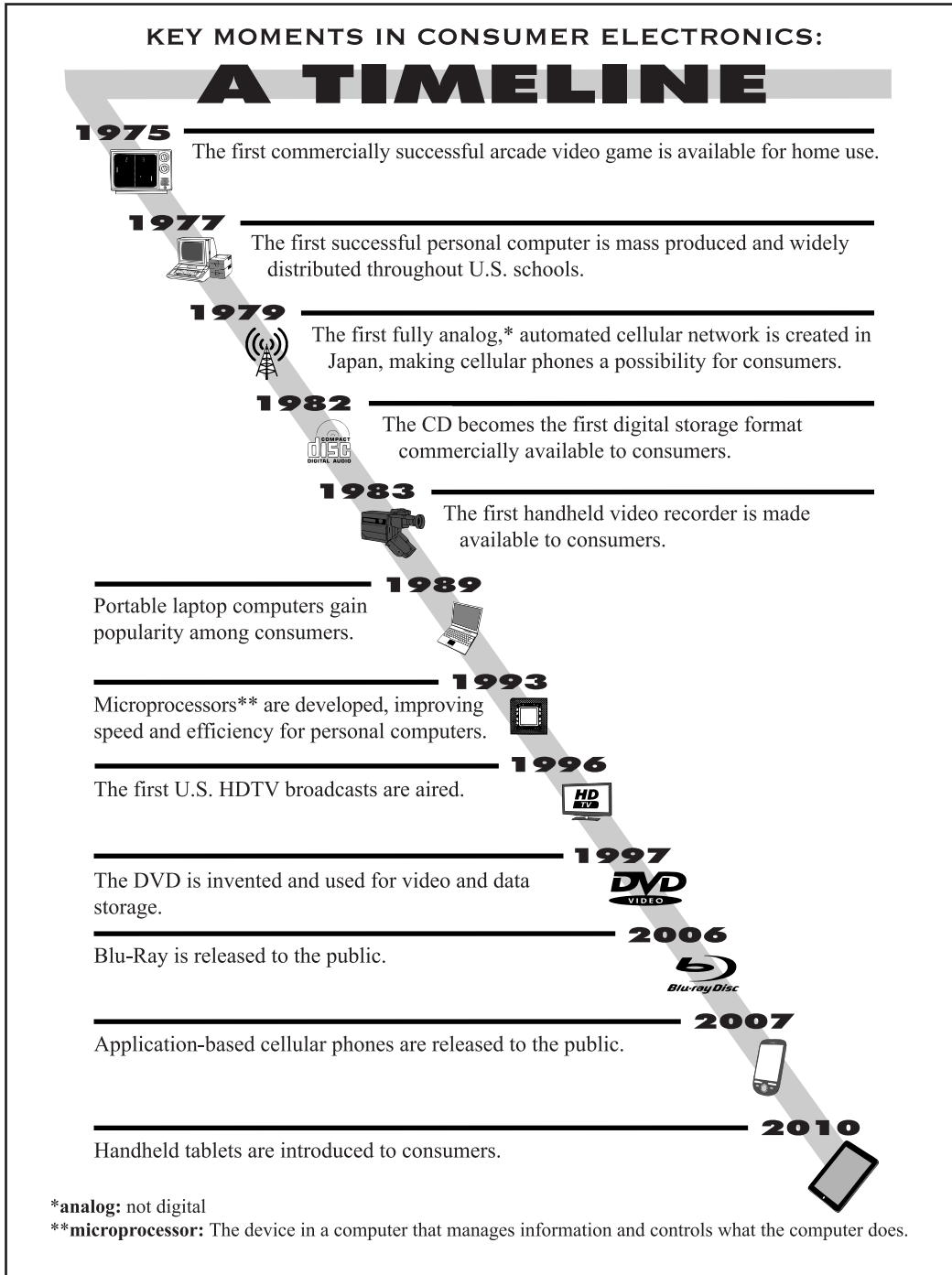WRITE ONLY ON THE PROMPT AND PASSAGE(S) YOU ARE GIVEN.

The time you have for writing is 60 minutes.

**PROMPT D – GRADE 8 WRITING ASSESSMENT
TENNESSEE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (TCAP)
2012 PILOT TEST**

The following graphic depicts a timeline of how communications technology has evolved.

Benefits of Technology

KEY MOMENTS IN CONSUMER ELECTRONICS:

A TIMELINE

1975
The first commercially successful arcade video game is available for home use.

1977
The first successful personal computer is mass produced and widely distributed throughout U.S. schools.

1979
The first fully analog,* automated cellular network is created in Japan, making cellular phones a possibility for consumers.

1982
The CD becomes the first digital storage format commercially available to consumers.

1983
The first handheld video recorder is made available to consumers.

1989
Portable laptop computers gain popularity among consumers.

1993
Microprocessors** are developed, improving speed and efficiency for personal computers.

1996
The first U.S. HDTV broadcasts are aired.

1997
The DVD is invented and used for video and data storage.

2006
Blu-Ray is released to the public.

2007
Application-based cellular phones are released to the public.

2010
Handheld tablets are introduced to consumers.

*__analog:__ not digital
**__microprocessor:__ The device in a computer that manages information and controls what the computer does.

Source: buysight.com

READ THIS WRITING PROMPT CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR WRITING.

Technological Advancement

Write a narrative essay tracing the advancements of communications technology. Draw evidence from the timeline to support your reflections. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context, and organize an event sequence that unfolds logically. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive detail, and sensory language to convey the events that shaped the technological advancements. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in your response.

You may use the space below for prewriting. However, only the lined pages of your answer document will be scored. You will have a time limit of 60 minutes.

This writing prompt must be returned with all test material.