



4th Grade Language Arts Essays: 2nd & 3rd Quarter

Teachers: Students will write an essay for part of their language arts grade and toward earning the \$20 Early Award Scholarship for the 2nd quarter and the \$20 Early Award Scholarship for the 3rd quarter. The 3rd quarter essay will be a contest. You may do the essays in any order; choose the essay that best aligns with the timing of your curriculum.

Teachers should prepare students for this writing assignment as they normally would, with pre-writing strategies and discussion. Suggestions for pre-writing include having students read about an inspiring person or watch and discuss a video that touches on themes from the essays (e.g., perseverance, service, doing well in school and life).

Teachers may alter the essay prompts, as long as they do not change the basic intent. For example, the citizenship prompt could be modified to a biography prompt to coincide with a unit on biographies. The journey prompt could become a compare-contrast prompt. Teachers are encouraged to share their prompts and ideas with one another.

Please use a rubric. Adhere to the 70% pass rate that is used for all Early Award Scholarship work.

3rd quarter only: We would like each 4th grade teacher to select the top essay in the class. The winners will receive a certificate and will be awarded \$25 in their Early Award Scholarship Funds. The names of the winners and the winning essays are due to Joanne Case (joanne@cfwabash.org) by the same due date as the other 3rd quarter student data.

Instructions to the students are included on the following pages. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions! Thank you for all you do!

-- Joanne Case, Program Officer



Essay Topic #1 – Citizenship

Students: Write an essay on *citizenship*, where citizenship is defined as being a conscientious student and an upstanding member of your class and your school. Good school citizens are known by traits such as responsibility, perseverance, respect, and empathy for others.

Choose one of the following prompts to write an expository essay, descriptive essay, or a persuasive essay on being a good citizen.

- A. Describe a situation where you had to try several times before finally succeeding. What was the situation? Why did you keep trying? What did you learn from this experience? Why is perseverance important for being a good student and a good citizen?
- B. Tell about the person you respect the most in life. Why does this person deserve your respect? What can you do to be like this person? What can you do in school to prepare to be like this person?
- C. Tell about a time when someone helped you. What would have happened if this person had not helped you? How will you help others? What can you do at school to help others?
- D. Study the word “empathy.” Write an essay beginning with a definition of the word “empathy” and provide several examples of empathy. Then apply it to your life. For example, tell about someone for whom you feel empathy, or tell about someone who feels empathy for you. How can you feel empathy for someone who is nothing like you?
- E. In an essay, tell how you would persuade someone that it’s important to do well in school if you want to do well in life?



Essay Topic #2 – Journey to Future Success

Students: Write an essay using the metaphor of a journey to describe my future as a great success, *a success that depends on education*. In the future, you will achieve great success in your career. Write an essay telling what steps you will take on your imaginary journey to become a success. Organize your essay this way:

A. Introduction

- i. Write an introductory paragraph describing the success you hope to become.
- ii. End the introductory paragraph with a topic sentence that tells how education will contribute to your success.

B. Body: Write three paragraphs that support your claim that education will affect your success. In each paragraph, describe the path you will take in your journey. For example:

- i. First leg of the journey: I discovered a love for science in the fourth grade when our class took a field trip to a medical device company.
- ii. Second leg of the journey: Just like mechanics have to be trained to work on cars, and doctors have to be trained to take care of people, I know that I have to do well in school to get the training I need to work on medical devices.
- iii. Third leg of the journey: After high school, I will go to a university, because people who create medical devices must have degrees in engineering.

C. Conclusion: Talk about possible dangers you will encounter on your journey, such as drugs and drinking, poor study habits, bad behavior, and other obstacles in your way. How will you avoid them? Close by talking about your hopes for a successful journey.