**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Holiday Essay Writing**

**Directions:**

* **Each student will choose an essay to write about the holiday season.**
* **Essays may be funny, sad, serious, happy, creative, and/or informative.**
* **Use fantastic word choice.**
* **Students may either write their essays in their writing notebook, or may type them on Office 365.**
* **If you choose to, you may write a holiday poem instead of an essay.**
* **Please see Mrs. Looney if there is a special holiday that your family celebrates in December or January that is not on the list below.**
* **Have fun!**

**Expository/Informational Essay**

•   The history of Christmas
•   Christmas through the ages
•   Christmas traditions

* The first Christmas
* The symbols and symbolism of Christmas
* The history of Hanukkah
* Hanukkah traditions
* The symbols and symbolism of Hanukkah
* The history of Kwanzaa
* Traditions of Kwanzaa
* Facts about Christmas

**Evaluation Essay**

•   What effects do Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa have on society?
•   Has the meaning of Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa changed over time?
•   Has Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa become too commercialized?

**Process Essay/How-To Essay**

•   A kid’s perfect minute-by-minute plan for Christmas Day
•   The correct way to open Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa presents
•   How to make Christmas a special day for the entire family
•   How to prepare for Christmas and/or Hanukkah
•   How to wrap a Christmas/Hanukkah present
•   How to decorate for Christmas and/or Hanukkah

**Argumentative Essay**

•   There should be absolutely no arguing on Christmas Day.
•   Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa is the best holiday of them all.
•   The real meaning of Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
•   The Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa spirit is alive and well.

**Compare and Contrast Essay**

•   Christmas now compared to Christmas when I was “young”
•   What used to be important to me about Christmas compared to what is important about Christmas to me now
•   The day before Christmas, Christmas Day, and the day after Christmas
•   Giving vs. receiving
•   Christmas for kids compared to Christmas for adult
•   Christmas traditions in different cultures

**Cause and Effect Essay**

•   How I feel when I give on Christmas Day
•   How the Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa spirit affects people’s behavior and attitude
•   Preparations for Christmas Day and the outcomes of all that hard work
•   What effect does all the Christmas media promotion have?

**Five-Paragraph Essay**

•   Three reasons…
•   Three signs…
•   Three presents…
•   Three traditions…
•   Three signs that Christmas is just around the corner
•   Three reasons I love Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa

**Holiday Persuasive Essay**

•   I definitely have been a very good boy or girl this year.
•   Christmas is a time to be thinking of others.
•   Presents are very important on Christmas Day.
•   Presents should not be important on Christmas Day.
•   We should have the Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa spirit all year round.
•   Christmas is a time to be thankful and for reflection.
•   We should have Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa twice a year!

**Personal Narrative Essay**

•   A wonderful Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa memory
•   My favorite present I ever GAVE
•   Christmas/Hanukkah shopping with my family
•   My favorite part of Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa
•   Family time at Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa
•   Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa traditions in my family
•   The best Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa ever
•   Funny happenings on Christmas day
•   Memorable presents

**Descriptive Essay**

•   Describe opening presents.
•   How I felt opening presents, eating delicious food, and spending time with family and friends
•   Describe the Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa spirit or energy.
•   Describe who you celebrate Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa with. What makes these people unique or special to celebrate with?
•   Describe the sights, sounds, and smells of when you first walk out to the tree on Christmas morning.
•   Describe how the anticipation and excitement of Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa make you feel.
•   Describe the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas.

**Story Ideas**

•   A Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa miracle
•   The greatest present ever
•   People in need at Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa
•   The real story of Christmas
•   The day after Christmas
•   Wow… Look at that star!