

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!