

Essay and Summary Writing

In this study of Language Arts, you will be given the opportunity to write several essays and summaries covering various topics.

For some of the summaries, you will be asked to read about a topic first.

For the essays, you will need to do some investigation and research.

The topics you will be varied and will include:

American Heroes

Learning from Mistakes

The Process of Metamorphosis

The Value of Creativity

Transformation of the English Language

The Role of Technology in Our World Today

The Process of Decision Making

Each essay or summary must be at least 2 pages long, and written in your own handwriting. When turning in your work, be sure to write the title on the top left hand corner of each page, and your name on the top right hand corner of each page.

You will also be given several grammar practice worksheets to complete in between writing assignments, so pay close attention to those as well. But, before you begin, it's important to review the writing process first.



Take some time to review the following steps of the writing process:

Brainstorming

Brainstorming is the first step to any writing assignment. It is when you begin generating ideas, exploring those ideas, and developing what will become your topic.

Drafting

Drafting is getting ideas down on paper and trying to organize them.

Revising

Revising is the real work of writing and begins when the writer makes sure that the writing has everything it should have, that it will appeal to the reader, and tell or prove what it is supposed to.

Proofreading and Editing

Proofreading and editing includes making sure that the audience can read and understand the words and the point.

Publishing

Publishing involves putting your writing in its final form for an audience to read.

Before you turn in any of your essays, you should ask yourself the following questions:

Have I checked and corrected my spelling, punctuation, and capitalization to help my audience understand what I have written?

Have I read my work to a friend or myself to make sure it sounds good?

Have I looked my writing over to make sure that it's neat and invites my audience to read it?

It is also very important to have someone else proofread and edit the material, to catch things you may have missed.



Essay - American Heroes

Take a look at this list of American Heroes. Choose one to research and write about. In your writing, be sure to include several ways the hero made a positive impact in the lives of others.

Remember, your essay must be at least 2 pages long, and written in your own handwriting. Also, when you turn in your essay, be sure to write the essay title on the top left hand corner of each page, and your name on the top right hand corner of each page.

American Hero List: (Choose one)

Abraham Lincoln

Rosa Parks

George Washington

Martin Luther King., Jr

Albert Einstein

Benjamin Franklin

Thomas Edison

Cesar Chavez

Booker T. Washington

Jackie Robinson

Jonas Salk

Walt Disney

The Tuskegee Airmen

Helen Keller

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Essay- Learning from Mistakes

Albert Einstein once said, "Anyone who has never made a mistake, has never tried anything new." But some people are so afraid of making a mistake, they often shy away from trying new things. For those people, they need to be made aware that some failures are just an opportunity to learn something new, or to learn a better way of doing something. So, instead of thinking of all mistakes as bad things, it's important to remind yourself and others that a mistake can often be a good thing.

For this essay pick one of the inventions below that was created by mistake to research and write about. Don't forget, *your essay must be at least 2 pages long and written in your own handwriting.*

Inventions Created by Mistake (Choose One)

The Slinky

Chocolate Chip Cookies

The Microwave Oven

Potato Chips

Penicillin

Matches

Post-It Notes

X-Rays

Super Glue

Velcro

The Implantable Pacemaker

Checklists for Revisions, Editing and Proofreading

Use the following checklists to proofread, revise and edit your essays as you go through the lessons. You may want to make a copy of this page to keep in front of you as you're writing.

Checklist for Revisions:

1. Do I have a clear central idea that connects to the topic?
2. Do I stay focused on my central idea?
3. Do I support my central idea with important and relevant details/examples?
4. Do I need to take out details/examples that DO NOT support my central idea?
5. Is my writing organized and complete, with a clear beginning, middle, and end?
6. Do I use a variety of interesting words, phrases, and/or sentences?

Checklist for Editing

7. Have I checked and corrected my spelling to help readers understand my writing?
8. Have I checked and corrected my punctuation and capitalization to help readers understand my writing?

Checklist for Proofreading

9. Ask yourself? Is there anything in my writing that is not just the way I want it?

Reread your writing. You should cross out or erase any errors you've made and correct those.

