



4th Grade Writing Activities

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Introduction

As your child moves through 4th grade, they are approaching an important transition. In 5th grade, academic expectations increase significantly, and students are expected to write well-organized, multi-paragraph essays across all subjects.

In competitive school districts across the United States, 4th graders in the second semester are expected to master the 5-paragraph essay structure. This includes a clear introduction with a thesis statement, three body paragraphs with supporting details, and a strong conclusion. If your child is still struggling with 3-paragraph essays, they may need additional support to be ready for 5th grade.

This resource provides three grade-appropriate writing activities with graphic organizers, writing templates, and 5-paragraph essay examples. Each activity focuses on a different writing genre that 4th graders are expected to master in U.S. public schools.

4학년 2학기로 접어들면서, 학업에 더욱 진지하게 임해야 하는 5학년이 다가오고 있습니다. 미국 학군지 기준, 4학년 2학기 학생이라면 5문단 에세이를 쓸 줄 알아야 합니다. 5문단 에세이는 명확한 서론(thesis statement 포함), 세 개의 본론, 그리고 탄탄한 결론으로 구성됩니다. 만약 아이가 아직 3문단 에세이에서 어려움을 겪고 있다면, 5학년 대비를 위해 추가적인 도움이 필요할 수 있습니다.

이 자료는 4학년 2학기에 맞는 세 가지 라이팅 활동을 담고 있습니다. 각 활동마다 플래너, 쓰기 종이, 그리고 5문단 에세이 예시를 함께 제공합니다.

Activity 1: Opinion Essay

Topic: Should Kids Use Social Media in Elementary School?

Instructions:

Write an opinion essay about whether elementary school students should be allowed to use social media. Your essay should include:

- Your clear opinion (yes or no)
- Three strong reasons that support your opinion
- Examples or evidence for each reason
- A conclusion that restates your opinion

Students can read this article before starting their essay to build background knowledge.

<https://www.timeforkids.com/g34/social-media-debate/>



512 x 512

Planning Sheet

Use this planner to organize your ideas before writing.

INTRODUCTION

My opinion: I think elementary school students should / should not use social media. (Circle one)

Hook (interesting question or statement):

Preview your three reasons:

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

Reason 1:

Example or evidence:

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

Reason 2:

Example or evidence:

BODY PARAGRAPH 3

Reason 3:

Example or evidence:

CONCLUSION

Restate your opinion in a new way:

Final thought or call to action:

Writing Paper

Name: _____ Date: _____

Example: Five Paragraphs

Introduction:

Should elementary school students be allowed to use social media? Many kids want to join apps like Instagram and TikTok, but I believe that elementary school students should not use social media. There are three important reasons why: it can be dangerous, it takes time away from learning, and it can hurt friendships.

Body Paragraph 1:

First, social media can be dangerous for young children. Kids might talk to strangers online without knowing who they really are. Some people on the internet pretend to be nice but actually want to hurt children. Even with safety settings, it is hard to keep kids completely safe. Parents and teachers cannot watch everything that happens online.

Body Paragraph 2:

Second, social media takes time away from important activities like learning and playing outside. When kids spend hours scrolling through videos, they have less time to do homework, read books, or exercise. Studies show that too much screen time can make it harder for kids to focus in school. Instead of watching other people's videos, kids should be doing their own creative activities.

Body Paragraph 3:

Third, social media can hurt real friendships. Sometimes kids feel sad when they see their friends having fun without them. Others might feel bad about themselves when they compare their lives to what they see online. Some kids even get bullied through mean comments or messages. Real friendships are built by playing together and talking face to face, not by counting likes.

Conclusion:

For these reasons, I strongly believe that elementary school students should not use social media. It is dangerous, wastes valuable time, and can damage friendships. Kids should wait until they are older and more mature to join social media. Until then, there are many better ways to have fun and connect with friends.

Activity 2: Informative Essay

Topic: How to Save Water at Home

Instructions:

Write an informative essay explaining how families can save water at home. Your essay should include:

- An introduction that explains why saving water is important
- Three different ways to save water (one per body paragraph)
- Details and examples for each method
- A conclusion that summarizes the main ideas

Students can read this article before starting their essay to build background knowledge.

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-kids>



Planning Sheet

Use this planner to organize your ideas before writing.

INTRODUCTION

Hook (interesting fact about water):

Why is saving water important?

Preview your three methods:

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

Method 1 (in the bathroom):

Details and examples:

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

Method 2 (in the kitchen):

Details and examples:

BODY PARAGRAPH 3

Method 3 (outside the house):

Details and examples:

CONCLUSION

Summarize the three methods:

Final thought (why this matters):

Writing Paper

Name: _____ Date: _____

Example: Five Paragraphs

Introduction:

Did you know that only one percent of all the water on Earth can be used by people? Water is one of our most important resources, and we need to use it wisely. Every family can help save water by making small changes at home. There are three main areas where we can save water: in the bathroom, in the kitchen, and outside the house.

Body Paragraph 1:

The bathroom is a great place to start saving water. Taking shorter showers can save many gallons of water each day. Instead of taking a ten-minute shower, try to finish in five minutes or less. Another way to save water is to turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth. If everyone in your family does this, you could save about eight gallons of water per day. You can also check for leaky toilets, which can waste hundreds of gallons without anyone noticing.

Body Paragraph 2:

The kitchen is another important area for saving water. When washing dishes by hand, fill the sink with water instead of letting the faucet run the whole time. If your family uses a dishwasher, make sure it is completely full before running it. This saves both water and energy. Also, keep a pitcher of cold water in the refrigerator so you do not have to run the tap waiting for cold water. These simple changes can make a big difference over time.

Body Paragraph 3:

Outside the house, there are many ways to save water in the yard. Water the lawn and plants early in the morning or in the evening when it is cooler. This way, less water evaporates in the heat. Using a broom instead of a hose to clean the driveway can save more than 80 gallons of water. If your family washes the car at home, use a bucket and sponge instead of a running hose. You can also collect rainwater in a barrel to water your garden.

Conclusion:

Saving water at home is easier than you might think. By making changes in the bathroom, kitchen, and yard, every family can help protect this precious resource. Remember: shorter showers, full dishwashers, and smart watering all add up. If everyone works together, we can make sure there is enough clean water for the future.

Activity 3: Narrative Essay

Topic: A Time I Overcame a Challenge

Instructions:

Write a narrative essay about a time when you faced a difficult challenge and overcame it. Your essay should include:

- A clear beginning that introduces the challenge
- Details about what happened and how you felt
- How you solved the problem or overcame the challenge
- An ending that explains what you learned



Planning Sheet

Use this planner to organize your ideas before writing.

INTRODUCTION

What was the challenge?

When and where did it happen?

How did you feel at first?

BODY PARAGRAPH 1 (The Problem)

What made the challenge difficult?

What happened first?

BODY PARAGRAPH 2 (The Struggle)

What did you try to do?

What obstacles did you face?

BODY PARAGRAPH 3 (The Solution)

How did you finally overcome the challenge?

Who or what helped you?

CONCLUSION

How did you feel after?

What did you learn from this experience?

Example: Five Paragraphs

Introduction:

Last year, I faced one of the hardest challenges of my life. I had just moved to a new school in the middle of third grade, and I did not know anyone. On my first day, I stood alone at recess while everyone else played together. I felt scared and lonely, but I did not give up. This is the story of how I learned to make new friends.

Body Paragraph 1:

Moving to a new school was incredibly difficult. At my old school, I had known my friends since kindergarten. We played together every day and sat together at lunch. But at my new school, everyone already had their friend groups. During class, I did not know who to ask for help. At lunch, I sat at the end of a table by myself. I missed my old friends so much that I wanted to cry.

Body Paragraph 2:

For the first few weeks, I tried different ways to make friends. I smiled at people in the hallway, but most of them did not smile back. I tried joining a kickball game at recess, but I was too shy to ask if I could play. One day, I brought my favorite book to school, hoping someone would want to talk about it. Nobody did. I started to think that I would never fit in at this school.

Body Paragraph 3:

Everything changed when my teacher assigned us a group project. I was paired with a girl named Maya and a boy named Jordan. At first, I was nervous to work with them. But as we worked on our project about rainforests, we started talking and laughing together. Maya liked the same TV shows as me, and Jordan loved books just like I did. After the project was done, they asked me to sit with them at lunch. I finally had friends again!

Conclusion:

Overcoming this challenge taught me an important lesson. Making friends takes time and patience, and it is okay to feel scared. Sometimes the best friendships start when you least expect them. Now Maya and Jordan are my best friends, and I am so glad I did not give up. Whenever I face a new challenge, I remember that things can get better if I keep trying.