

## **SUGGESTED PROMPTS FOR HOLIDAY WRITING**

Christmas is a wonderful time of year for student writing. There is a very high level of student motivation! Student interest and motivation stays high when students write about Christmas coming from different angles and with different purposes.

Here is a great list of Christmas essay and story writing ideas that you may use with your students. Feel free to modify and change the themes as long as they fall within the four modes of discourse: 1) descriptive 2) narrative 3) expository/informational and 4) argument/persuasive. Many of the headings below are “organizational models or patterns” and can be combined with the four main modes of discourse. Example: The “cause and effect pattern” can be expressed in the descriptive, narrative, expository, or argumentative genre.

### **Christmas Persuasive Essay**

- There definitely is a Santa Claus.
- 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 spirit all year round.
- How getting everything on my Christmas wish list would make the world a better place.
- Christmas is a time to be thankful and for reflection.
- We should have Christmas twice a year!

### **Christmas Process Essay or How-To Essay**

- A kid’s perfect minute-by-minute plan for Christmas Day.
- The correct way to open Christmas presents.
- How to buy the perfect Christmas present for someone.
- How to make Christmas a special day for the entire family.
- How to prepare for Christmas Day.
- How to wrap a Christmas present.
- Santa’s complete process from getting started until delivering his very last present.
- How to decorate for Christmas.

### **Christmas Argumentative Essay**

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

#### **Christmas Evaluation Essay**

- What is the effect that Christmas has on society?
- Has the meaning of Christmas changed over time?
- What would Jesus think of Christmas today?
- Has Christmas become too commercialized?

### **Christmas Narrative/ Personal Narrative Essay**

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

### **Christmas Cause and Effect Essay**

- How I feel when I give on Christmas Day.
- How the birth of Jesus affected our world.
- How the Christmas 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?

### **Christmas Expository/Informational Essay**

- The real truth about Santa Claus. The history of Santa Claus.
- The history of Christmas.
- Christmas through the ages.
- Christmas traditions.
- Facts about Christmas.
- The symbols and symbolism of Christmas.
- The first Christmas.

### **Christmas Descriptive Essay**

- Describe opening presents.
- How I felt opening presents, eating delicious food, and spending time with family and friends.
- Describe the Christmas spirit or Christmas energy.
- Describe who you celebrate Christmas with. What makes them 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 makes you feel.
- Describe the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas.

### **Christmas 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.

**Christmas 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 adults.
- Christmas traditions in different cultures.
- Christmas without Santa Claus compared to Christmas with Santa Claus.

**Christmas Story Ideas**

- A Christmas miracle.
- The greatest present ever.
- People in need on Christmas.
- The real story of Christmas.
- The day after Christmas.
- The day I met Santa Claus.
- Wooah...CRASH... Santa?
- Wow... Look at that star!

Be sure to check out the “Pattern Based Writing: Quick & Easy Essay” writing program at the home page. Also, be sure to download your FREE 59-page “Guide to Writing” once you get to the homepage!

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!