



Veteran's Day: Should Schools Close to Observe It?

By: Jessica Shaffer

5th grade teacher; M.A. in Administration and Leadership, Georgian Court University, NJ

Holiday
Grades 9–12



Introduction

Schools are closed on Columbus Day, President's Day, Labor Day, and Memorial Day, but not all schools are closed on Veteran's Day. Some districts observe the holiday while others do not. Does this seem fair and just, or should Veteran's Day be a holiday that all schools recognize? Students will write a persuasive essay about why all schools should or should not observe Veteran's Day.

Learning Objectives

(CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1) Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Materials Needed

- [Pre-writing graphic organizer](#)
- [Writer's checklist](#)
- Chromebook/tablet/computer

Procedure

1. Discuss Veteran's Day with the students. Brainstorm about existing knowledge.
2. Have the students watch videos and read articles about Veteran's Day to build background knowledge. Make sure to preview any videos before showing, as links can change over time.
 - [Debate.org: Explores many opinions on whether schools should be open on Veteran's Day.](#)
 - [History of Veteran's Day](#)
 - [Veteran's Day \(BrainPOP\)](#)
 - [Veteran's Day Facts for Kids](#)
 - [Fun Facts About Veteran's Day](#)
 - [Veteran's Day History Lesson](#)
 - [Military.com: History of Veteran's Day](#)
 - [History of Veteran's Day](#)
 - [More History of Veteran's Day](#)
3. Have students fill in a graphic organizer to organize ideas. This pre-writing activity will be used to guide **students in the creation of their essays.**

Continued on page 2



Veteran's Day: Should Schools Close to Observe It?

By: Jessica Shaffer

5th grade teacher; M.A. in Administration and Leadership, Georgian Court University, NJ

Holiday
Grades 9–12



Continued from page 1

4. Have students begin to create their essays. The first part will be the introduction. In the introduction, students **should include**:
 - The introduction should “hook” or grab the attention of the reader.
 - Students should state their argument in the opening paragraph (thesis statement).
5. Have students create the body of their essays. There should be at least three paragraphs of supporting details.
 - These should all be statements that support the student’s argument.
 - Include a topic sentence in each paragraph.
 - Each supporting detail should be backed with facts to support the argument. Students can use any of the links provided, as well as any additional facts they find.
 - Opinions and personal views should be included throughout, but must be supported with factual evidence.
6. Have students create the conclusion for their essay.
 - Have a topic sentence that restates the argument and facts that support it.
 - Have a strong last sentence, or “clincher”, in the essay. This is what will leave a lasting impression on the readers.
7. Teachers will conference with students as they create their writing piece. If teachers do not wish to conference with the students, the teacher can monitor the work being completed and help on an as-needed basis.
8. When the rough draft of the essay is completed, students should have one to two peers edit the persuasive essay and make the appropriate changes.
9. Students will make the final edits and create the final draft of their essay.

Optional Extension Assignments: These can also be used for any early finishers.

- [Veteran's Day Quiz](#) and [Answers for Quiz](#) , [Interactive Timeline](#), [Veteran's and Benefits](#)

Evaluation

You should use the writing rubric that your district requires to grade the writing. There are many classwork grades that you can take from this writing assignment including the checklist and the rough draft.