

## Monthly Essay Topics

- ❖ Each student will submit five thoughtful, well-written essays, of their choice, from their grade's list. Essays are welcome at your earliest convenience, but must be turned in before the end of the program.
- ❖ Every essay must be typed, consist of an introduction/body/conclusion, and must be completed in no more than five paragraphs.
- ❖ As a heading for each essay, we require that student to include: Name, Grade, and Essay Number (each essay will be numbered).
- ❖ Students are encouraged to bring in essay drafts for help with brainstorming, and for their tutor to proofread.
- ❖ The Project D.E.E.P. staff will grade essays and points will be awarded based on quality of writing. In the past, we have even had some outstanding essays published in the Dorchester Reporter.
- ❖ As previously stated, the remaining three essay topics may be submitted for extra credit points

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

1. Superheroes, like Spiderman, don't use weapons to subdue their foes. Rather, they rely upon a few special tools and their own ingenuity. Describe a time when your quick thinking saved the day.
2. Suppose your going camping with your family. Tell how to pack for a camping trip, what kinds of things will you bring?
3. Explain pollution to a visitor from another planet. What are some factors that have caused pollution to our environment?
4. Describe a family celebration that has special meaning for you; maybe it is a celebration unique to your family. What makes it so special?
5. Sometimes lies can have serious consequences. Describe a time when a lie had major consequences for you.
6. Some people prefer to live in the quiet of the country; others prefer the hustle and bustle of the city. Which do you think is the better choice? State your position and support it with specific reasons and examples.
7. In order to save money, your principal is thinking about canceling all field trips for the remainder of the year. Write an essay persuading him or her to allow students to continue attending field trips. Use specific reasons and examples to support your response.
8. Every year, millions of people visit zoos around the world. But some people believe that zoos are inhumane and that animals should not be kept in captivity. Do you agree? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

1. Research shows that the average American watches as much as six hours of television each day. Do you think this is too much? Write an essay convincing readers to spend less time in front of the TV

2. What is your all-time favorite movie and why? Write an essay persuading readers to watch this film.
3. Many cities suffer from serious air and noise pollution—as well as endless traffic jams—because of too many cars. Some people feel that cities with extensive public transportation systems should ban passenger cars and force people to walk, bike, or use public transportation. Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?
4. Some people think of the United States as a nation of “couch potatoes.” Write an essay persuading readers to be more physically active.
5. Many of our fondest memories are associated with food. Describe a memorable experience that took place while preparing or eating food.
6. Explain how different modern life would be without computers.
7. Describe how manners have changed over time.
8. There is a saying that you should be careful what you wish for, because you just might get it. Describe a time when you wished for something and got it—and then wished you hadn't.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

1. Many people believe that television violence has a negative effect on society because it promotes violence. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your response.
2. Many of us spend hours in front of our computers and communicate more by e-mail or instant-messaging than in person. Some people believe that this is good because it helps shy people communicate more openly with others. Others believe that computer communication prevents us from developing interpersonal skills and limits our ability to have meaningful relationships with others. How do you feel about this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.
3. The first time we try something new can be exciting, frightening, and enlightening. Tell about an important “first” in your life and what you learned from the experience.
4. In many situations, as the saying goes, “two heads are better than one.” Describe a time when you accomplished something through teamwork that you could not have achieved on your own.
5. Carpooling, recycling, and planting trees are all activities that are good for the environment. Write an essay convincing readers to actively participate in one of these activities.
6. You have been asked to write a brochure to attract visitors to your hometown. Write an essay that convinces people to visit the place where you live.
7. In a small minority of schools across the nation, students do not earn grades; rather, they receive regular written and oral evaluations of their work. Some people believe that this is more effective for learning than the grading system, which they believe rewards students unevenly and encourages a competitiveness that is counterproductive to learning. How do you feel about this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

8. Explain why a particular adjective describes you perfectly

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

1. Many people volunteer their time to help others, either through non-profit organizations, churches, or other charitable venues. Write an essay convincing readers to find a charity and volunteer their time. We all have favorite activities that we enjoy. Write an essay convincing readers to try the activity that you enjoy most.

2. A few decades ago, many families had half a dozen or more children. Nowadays, more and more families are choosing to have only one or two children. Are smaller families better than larger ones? Why or why not? State your position and support it with specific reasons and examples.

3. Today, there are more and more reality shows on television. Do these shows make good television? Why or why not? Explain your answer using specific reasons and examples.

4. Elementary and secondary schools around the country are beginning to actively address the problem of bullies. In your opinion, is bullying an issue that should be addressed by schools or left to parents? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

5. Explain how to choose a pet that matches your lifestyle.

6. Describe a master plan that would make your community a better place to live.

7. Discuss reasons for appreciating your parents, and describe how to show appreciation to your parents.

8. People often say "Don't judge a book by its cover." Describe a time when you misjudged someone based on his or her appearance or when someone misjudged you.