
INDIANA STATEHOOD DAY ESSAY CONTEST

LESSON PLAN

OVERVIEW: Students use a variety of resources to write an essay on the current theme of the Indiana Statehood Day Essay Contest. Resources might include reviewing primary documents and artifacts, talking to community resource persons, and visiting historic sites and buildings.

Learning Goals:

- Understand the current theme for the Indiana Statehood Day Essay Contest
- Understand how Indiana history is related to the student's life
- Evaluate historical information and interpret its contents
- Write an essay that communicates clearly the student's thoughts about the current Indiana Statehood Day Essay Contest theme

Depending on the theme, the following Indiana Academic Standards for Social Studies and English / Language Arts may apply. Other standards may apply as well, depending on the teacher and the student's chosen topic.

English / Language Arts

4.W.1
4.W.3.2
4.W.4
4.W.5
4.W.6.1
4.W.6.1a
4.W.6.1b
4.W.6.1c
4.W.6.1d
4.W.6.1e
4.W.6.2
4.W.6.2a

Standard 1 History

4.1.5
4.1.6
4.1.13
4.1.14
4.1.17
4.1.18

Standard 2 Civics

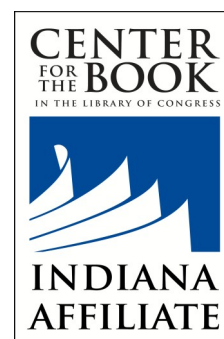
4.2.5
4.2.7

Standard 3 Geography

4.3.9
4.3.10

Standard 4 Economics

4.4.5
4.4.7



Each year, Indiana 4th grade students are invited to submit an essay for the Indiana Statehood Day Essay contest. The essay is limited to 100-300 words.

Successful essays will follow the objectives outlined out in the Indiana Educational Standards for Informative Writing: 4.W.3.2.

Essays should have an introductory statement with a clear main idea related to the annual theme for the Indiana Statehood Day Essay contest. Past themes have included: "What Does Indiana Mean to Me?" "Hoosier Bicentennial Heroes" and "Hoosier Bicentennial Moments."

Students should include supporting paragraphs with topic and summary sentences. Students should provide facts and specific details and examples from various sources including texts. Students are encouraged to collect quotes from family members and community resource persons. Students are encouraged to visit or research historic sites and buildings.

Essays should provide a concluding statement or section.

Tasks

- Research Indiana History using IN Academic Social Studies Standards. Resources provided can be used for teacher preparation or student research.

This resource provides links to every Social Studies Standards.

<https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/standards/socialstudies/ss-2015-gr4-resources-20160509.pdf>

This resource provides links to the Indiana State Library's digital archives.

<https://digitalcollections.library.in.gov/>

- Write an informative essay using the current year's theme. (See Essay contest flyer.) Resource tools provided for essay completion. The resources do not need to be included in the submission.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/printouts/6-8%20Essay%20Map.pdf>

<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/printouts/ConnectionWeb.pdf>

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/printouts/30699_concept_map.pdf

Fourth Grade Student Essay Competition

Indiana Statehood Day

The Indiana Center for the Book hosts an essay competition every year to commemorate Indiana Statehood Day, a celebration of Indiana's birthday. Every year there is a different theme. For additional information on the essay contest and the current theme, please visit: www.in.gov/library/statehood.htm. Winners of the essay contest will be honored at the Statehood Day Celebration at one of four participating locations on Statehood Day annually. December 11 is Indiana's Statehood Day.

Annual essay contest rules:

The competition is open to any Indiana fourth grade public, private or homeschooled student in the current school year.

A panel of judges will choose first, second, third, and fourth place winners.

Essays must range from 100 to 300 words, handwritten or typed.

Essays should be submitted according to the rules listed on the website: www.in.gov/library/statehood.htm

Essays should be well organized and reflective of the theme. The judges are excited to see your students' interpretation of the theme.

Essays must be postmarked or emailed by the deadline. For more information visit: www.in.gov/library/statehood.htm

For more information on the current year's contest visit:

www.in.gov/library/statehood.htm