



Is Thanksgiving Still Relevant?

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Holiday
Grades 9–12



Introduction

In this writing prompt, students will examine the history of Thanksgiving and develop an argument with supporting evidence on whether this holiday is constructive or destructive to American culture.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Write arguments with sufficient evidence to support a claim. ([CCSS.W.11-12.1](#))
- Conduct research to answer a question. ([CCSS.W.11-12.7](#))

Materials Needed

- Access to technology (research)
- Paper/electronic tablet/laptop (for composing a writing piece)

Procedure

- Introduce this topic by playing these videos for the students:
 - [The History of Thanksgiving](#)
 - [Native American Girls Discuss Thanksgiving](#)
- Have the students work with a peer or small group to discuss their thoughts regarding the two videos.

Thanksgiving has been a highly celebrated holiday in the American culture for centuries. While it is one of the most popular holidays in America, there are some who believe it is not a very happy day.

Is the Thanksgiving Holiday constructive or destructive to the American culture? Be sure to use research that supports your views on this topic. You must compose an argumentative essay and cite at least five credible sources.

Evaluation

Use a rubric of your choice to evaluate the argumentative essays.