



# Veteran's Day

By: Jessica Shaffer

5th grade teacher; MA, Administration, Leadership, Georgian Court University, NJ

Holiday  
Grades 6–8



## Introduction

Veteran's Day is a holiday that is meant to recognize and celebrate the service and sacrifice of our veterans. Students will brainstorm what knowledge they already have about veterans and Veteran's Day. Students will watch video(s) to enhance knowledge of Veteran's Day and find facts to support the main idea of their writing. This activity can be used for language arts as well as social studies, and the requirements can be adjusted according to grade level.

## Learning Objectives

- SWBAT work through the writing process to create an essay on Veteran's Day.
- SWBAT understand the importance of veterans to our country.

## Materials Needed

- Paper for pre-writing
- Paper for essay OR Chromebook/Tablet for typing response
- Student essay checklist (can be modified for class expectations)
- Graphic organizer for essay

## Procedure

**Task 1:** Brainstorm what students know about Veteran's Day. Watch video(s) on Veteran's Day. There are many videos available on Youtube, and a few are linked below. BrainPOP is also a great site and very kid friendly. You need an account, but many times the holiday videos are offered for free.

- [Veteran's Day \(BrainPOP\)](#)
- [Veteran's Day Facts for Kids](#)
- [Fun Facts About Veteran's Day](#)
- [Veteran's Day History Lesson](#)

**Task 2:** Share stories of veterans that the students know personally. Create an anchor chart of reasons why students feel that veterans are important.

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**Task 3:** Have students fill in a graphic organizer to organize ideas and pre-writing for their essay. Make sure to check over this before you have students move on to actually writing. Use a graphic organizer that students are familiar with.

**Task 4:** Have students create their essay.

- Introduction
- 2-3 paragraphs for supporting details
- Conclusion

**Task 5:** Teachers will conference with students as they create their writing piece. Students will be given a checklist that they must have the teacher initial when their writing has been checked. This will be done throughout the writing process for the essay.

**Task 6:** When the rough draft of the essay is completed, students should have two peers edit the essay and make the appropriate changes before handing in the revised rough draft to the teacher for a final edit.

**Task 7:** After the teacher makes final revisions and edits, students will complete the final draft of the essay and prepare for the Writer's Celebration.

**Assignment:** The teacher should have two assignments/activities that correlate with Veteran's Day for the early finishers or for those students waiting to conference. These should count as classwork grades. The assignments are valuable because they could give students ideas for writing but also expand their knowledge of veterans and Veteran's Day.

**Writer's Celebration:** The final product should take around two weeks to complete (depending on the length of time you spend each day). At the completion of the essays, you can have a Writer's Celebration in your classroom (such as one in Writer's Workshop). Students will share their essays with the class. You can have the students decorate the room with red, white, and blue. This would take pre-planning, but inviting veterans into the classroom for the celebration would make it special.

## Evaluation

You should use the writing rubric that your district requires to grade the writing.