

A MESSAGE TO FAMILIES ABOUT INVESTWRITE Fall 2026

Parents and families can be instrumental in providing a successful educational experience for students.

InvestWrite is a great opportunity for students to showcase their ability to think critically, analyze and problem solve, while developing their capacity for writing and creative expression. All students who are registered for The Stock Market Game can extend their knowledge of personal finance and investing concepts by being involved in this writing challenge to address real-world financial situations and issues.

Available to elementary, middle, and high school Stock Market Game students across the country, students have the potential to win awards at the state and national levels. Awards can include laptops, cameras, gift cards, trophies, and more!

If a winning essay is submitted by an educator/Stock Market Game Advisor that is an immediate family member or resides in the same household of the student to be awarded, the SIFMA Foundation requires an affidavit attesting the essay is consistent with the student's typical writing ability. The statement must be completed and submitted by a third party, not a family member. This could be a tutor, learning mentor, an educator involved in learning outside of The Stock Market Game, or co-op teacher for example.

To get started please visit www.investwrite.org to view grade level essay questions and access writing guides and resources. Below you will find general submission guidelines and judging criteria.

You WILL need a Stock Market Game Advisor ID and team ID for each student that participates.

If you would like us to help recruit your student's classroom teacher, please contact us! And for more information on how your child or children can participate, or other inquiries, our program manager will respond to you personally. Reach out to Jessica Bayer at jessica@investwrite.org.

Thank you for taking an active role in financial literacy education by supporting your children's learning.

We look forward to working with you and equipping the next generation of leaders!

Sincerely,

The InvestWrite Team

www.investwrite.org

InvestWrite Parent Submission Guidelines

Fall 2026 Deadline: Wednesday, December 9, 2026

Please note the following guidelines for a successful submission.

Essays need to meet all the guidelines before the deadline. Failure to meet the guidelines will result in disqualification.

- ✓ Each essay submission must meet the minimum and maximum word requirement for the essay for their grade level.
- ✓ This is an individual project. Group discussion is encouraged but **essays must be written and developed by individual students.**
- ✓ The student author's name **CANNOT** appear in the essay or title. Identification of the student or teacher **in the essay** will result in disqualification.
- ✓ If references are cited, include them at the end of the essay text.
- ✓ References must be formatted without footnotes. At the end of the essay simply list each source as: (Author. "Title". Date. URL).
- ✓ Only the body of the essay will be included in the word count. The title and references will not count in the word limit.
- ✓ All essays must be submitted in plain text; no charts, graphs or symbols will be accepted.
- ✓ **If a winning essay is submitted by an educator/Stock Market Game Advisor that is an immediate family member or resides in the same household of the student to be awarded, the SIFMA Foundation requires an affidavit attesting the essay is consistent with the student's typical writing ability. This could be a tutor, learning mentor, an educator involved in learning outside of The Stock Market Game, or co-op teacher for example.**

Judging Criteria

Judges of the InvestWrite competition will base their decisions on **rationale, understanding of the subject matter, and writing style**. They will ask themselves the following questions as they review essay submissions:

Rationale

The essay should be well organized and written in a manner that indicates there was a logical thought process involved in addressing the assignment. In the essay, the student should present a thoughtful progression of ideas and recommendations. The essay should draw clear connections between the students thinking and recommendations or conclusions.

- Is your essay well organized?
- Do you address all the elements of the question in your essay?
- Have you written clearly when you described details?
- Have you omitted unnecessary details?

Understanding the Subject Matter

The judges will read the essay with the following questions in mind based on the student grade level. Does the student completely address the elements of the question and use appropriate terminology?

Does the student exhibit knowledge regarding researching and planning an investment strategy? This aspect of scoring targets the students understanding of the basic concepts taught in the Stock Market Game.

- Are the words and terms you include in your essay used correctly?
- Will your statements make sense to a judge who is reading your essay?
- Have you described your strategies clearly?
- Do you talk about how the things you learned in the Stock Market Game relate to what you wrote in your essay?

Writing Style

This scoring element allows the student's creativity to be recognized. Judges ask if the essay is interesting and easy to read and if they were encouraged to continue reading to the conclusion of the essay. Students have an opportunity to exhibit the ability to communicate thoughts in an engaging and inviting manner. Writing style includes assessment of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. This scoring element also offers students the chance to think beyond examples provided and make their essay unique by expression of their own interests and creativity.

- Did you make your essay easy for the judges to read?
- Will the judges be able to see your creative side when they read your essay?
- Will judges who read your essay be interested in it and want to read to the end?
- Have you used proper punctuation and good grammar?
- Have you carefully worked on your drafts to make your final essay as good as it can be?
- Did you work on this essay without too much help from your teacher or an adult? Your essay should be in your very own personal writing style!