

TEACHER RESOURCE



Lesson • Organizer • Rubric

FALL 2026

A national writing opportunity connected to The Stock Market Game

As part of The Stock Market Game your students can participate in a fun national writing competition, InvestWrite. Dozens of students and educators around the country are recognized every semester.

More information and awards: www.investwrite.org

Writing Assignment

Prompt • All Grades

During the Stock Market Game, which stock, bond or mutual fund investment taught you the biggest lesson? How can you use that lesson to build your own long-term, diversified investment portfolio and to educate others about long-term investing?

Performance Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Develop social/emotional learning skills related to working cooperatively, self-awareness, decision-making and setting goals
- Synthesize information related to current events and apply to future time frames
- Utilize critical thinking skills to apply concepts and terminology from the Stock Market Game
- Identify the main ideas in the InvestWrite prompt
- Write an essay that informs and/or persuades its readers
- Use appropriate grammar, spelling, structure, and language to convey intent

Classroom Steps

1. Visit the website, or have students visit the website, and explore the awards section to generate excitement. Explain that students can demonstrate what they are learning in The Stock Market Game by writing an essay for the InvestWrite competition, which offers exciting national and state awards.
2. Distribute the Student Writing Organizer (available to download from the website) or go directly to the website to explain the InvestWrite competition.

3. Review the Rules and Guidelines below.
4. Guide students through the Judging Criteria below. The related Grading Rubric may also be used for individual reporting or assessment purposes.
5. Read the essay question and promote classroom discussion.
6. Guide students to “Brain Storm!” Use the Student Writing Organizer to make notes and organize the essay.

Writing Organizer

Introductory Paragraph — Introduce Your Investment Journey

- Develop an introductory paragraph about your classroom experience while participating in The Stock Market Game.
- Discuss events or ideas that impacted decisions you made in developing your Stock Market Game portfolio.

Think About & Write About — Body of the Essay

1. **My Portfolio Strategy:** Describe your Stock Market Game portfolio, the choices you made and why.
2. **My Biggest Lesson:** Identify which stock, bond or mutual fund taught you the biggest lesson.
3. **Why It Mattered:** Discuss why that experience is your biggest lesson.
4. **Applying the Lesson:** Point out how you think this lesson can help you obtain investing success in your own future.
5. **Real World Investing:** Explain how things you’ve learned in The Stock Market Game have helped you gain an understanding of investing in the real world for the long-term and how you might help educate others about this.
6. **My Future Success:** Help make your essay more interesting to the reader by writing about how your Stock Market Game experience will impact your future.

Concluding Paragraph

Write a concluding paragraph that summarizes the essay. The conclusion should summarize the key ideas discussed throughout the essay and offer your final impression or ideas.

Be Sure To

- Draft Writing — discuss the writing process for your classroom and provide dates for drafts and the final deadline. You can edit the Student Writing Organizer to include important dates and then distribute it to students.
- Final Writing — reinforce the classroom process regarding final submission, including dates. Please note you can submit as many essays as you choose. Be sure to refer to the Rules and Guidelines.

Submission Deadline

Wednesday, December 9, 2026

Rules & Guidelines

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

- **4–5 grade division:** Each student may submit only one entry; **minimum 300 words, maximum 800 words.**
- **6–8 grade division:** Each student may submit only one entry; **minimum 400 words, maximum 900 words.**
- **9–12 grade division:** Each student may submit only one entry; **minimum 500 words, maximum 1,000 words.**
- This is an individual project. Group discussion is encouraged, but essays must be written and submitted by individual students.
- If a title is chosen, it must appear at the top of the first page of the text.
- 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.

Judging Criteria

What judges will look for

Judges of the InvestWrite competition will base their decisions on your rationale, understanding of the subject matter and writing style.

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.
- Be sure to present a thoughtful progression of ideas and recommendations.
- Draw clear connections between your thinking and your 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

- Address the elements of the question completely and use appropriate terminology.
- Demonstrate your knowledge regarding researching and planning an investment strategy.
 - *Do you show that you understand the concepts taught in the Stock Market Game?*
 - *Are the words and terms you use 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

- Make the essay interesting and easy to read, encouraging the judge to continue reading to the conclusion.
- Use creativity and communicate thoughts in an engaging and inviting manner.
 - *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!*

Use of AI

Use of AI must be consistent with academic and integrity guidelines set by the school or classroom teacher.

AI detection will be utilized in assessing the essays and can lead to disqualification.

Grading Rubric

The following is based on standards for students to incorporate narrative elements effectively into arguments and informative/explanatory texts.

CRITERIA	4 — Exceeds	3 — Meets	2 — Developing	1 — Beginning
RATIONALE	There is a clear progression of logical thought. The introduction is engaging, and the conclusion is strong.	For the most part the progression of thought is logical. The introduction presents the writer's point of view and the conclusion sums up the body of the essay.	The essay lacks a clear progression of logical thought. The introduction does not effectively present the writer's point of view and the conclusion does not successfully sum up the body of the essay.	There is no logical order to how facts and sentiments are presented. The introduction does not successfully present the topic or the writer's point of view and the conclusion does not effectively support the essay's premise.
UNDERSTANDING THE SUBJECT MATTER	The writer expresses themselves effectively using the appropriate investment language and sustainable investing terminology to explain their position.	You can assume what the writer is trying to express. They use terminology in a way that makes it unclear whether they fully understand investment terms and the concept of sustainable investing.	It is not clear what the writer is trying to express. They misuse investment and sustainable investing terminology throughout the essay.	There is a lot of misinformation in the essay.
WRITING STYLE	The writer has chosen an appropriate tone and format that makes their position clear and presents supporting evidence in an organized and convincing manner.	The writer has chosen an appropriate tone and format that makes their position clear but supporting evidence can be organized more effectively.	The writer has chosen a somewhat inappropriate tone and format that hurts their position. The writing is unclear and fails to present supporting evidence in an organized and convincing manner.	The writer's tone and style are completely inappropriate in stating their position. Supporting remarks are weak and disorganized.

Complete information and awards can be found at www.investwrite.org