



Teacher

Lesson—Organizer—Rubric

Spring 2026

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. Check out the awards and see more information on the website at www.investwrite.org

Below you will find the writing assignment along with important guidelines, judging criteria and a rubric.

Writing Assignment for All Grades

Describe your Stock Market Game portfolio. Discuss how you could diversify your portfolio for success in 10 years. Explain what stocks, bonds, and/or mutual funds you would add or remove and why.

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

- You can go to the website, or have your students go to the website and check out the awards sections to generate excitement. Explain to students they will have the opportunity to demonstrate what they're learning in the Stock Market Game by writing an essay for the InvestWrite competition that has exciting national and state awards.
- Distribute the [Student Writing Organizer](#) (available to download from our website) or you can simply go directly to the website to help explain the InvestWrite competition.
- Go over the [Rules and Guidelines](#) below. (also included in the [Student Writing Organizer](#))
- Guide the students through the [Judging Criteria](#) below. (also included in the [Student Writing Organizer](#)). You may also consult the related [Grading Rubric](#) below, if valuable for your individual reporting or assessment purposes.
- Read the essay question and promote classroom discussion.
- Guide students to "[Brain Storm!](#)"-Use the [Student Writing Organizer](#) to help make notes and organize their essay.

- **Writing Organizer**
- **Introductory Paragraph**
 - 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 and WRITE ABOUT for the body of your essay:**
 1. Describe your Stock Market Game portfolio, the choices you made and why.
 2. Explain what is important when thinking about investing for the long-term.
 3. Consider discussing research tools you might use to select successful investments.
 4. Think about and write how diversifying investments can contribute to long-term investing success.
 5. Describe in detail the investments you would add or remove to make in a \$10,000 portfolio of stocks, bonds and/or mutual funds in real world investments for success in 10 years.
 6. Justify your choices and if there are any current economic situations that impacted your decisions.
 7. Point out how you think this portfolio can help you obtain investing success in 10 years.
 8. 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.
 9. Help make your essay more interesting to the reader by writing about what a successful investment plan would mean for you 10 years from now.
- Write a concluding paragraph that summarizes the essay. The conclusion paragraph 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 final deadline. (note you can edit the [Student Writing Organizer](#) and include important dates then distribute to your students)
- Final Writing-reinforce classroom process regarding final submission including dates. Please note you can submit as many essays as you choose. (Be sure to refer to [Rules and Guidelines](#), below)

COMPLETE INFORMATION AND AWARDS CAN BE FOUND AT:

www.investwrite.org

Submission Deadline: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Rules and Guidelines

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

- ✓ Each student in the **4-5 grade** division may submit only one entry with a maximum of **800** words and a minimum of **300** words.
- ✓ Each student in the **6-8 grade** division may submit only one entry with a maximum of **900** words and a minimum of **400** words.
- ✓ Each student in the **9-12 grade** division may submit only one entry with a maximum of **1000** words and a minimum of **500** 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

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

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 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 student's 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!

GRADING RUBRIC

If valuable for your individual reporting or assessment purposes, a rubric is continued on the following page.

GRADING RUBRIC

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

CRITERIA	4	3	2	1
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 himself/herself effectively using the appropriate investment language and sustainable investing terminology to explain his or her position.	You can assume what the writer is trying to express. He or she uses terminology in a way that makes it unclear whether he or she fully understands investment terms and the concept of sustainable investing.	It is not clear what the writer is trying to express. He or she misuses 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 his or her position clear and presents supporting evidence in an organized and convincing manner.	The writer has chosen an appropriate tone and format that makes his or her position clear but supporting evidence can be organized more effectively.	The writer has chosen a somewhat inappropriate tone and format that hurts his or her 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 his or her position. Supporting remarks are weak and disorganized.