**A MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ABOUT INVESTWRITE FALL 2020**

Parents and families can be instrumental in providing a successful education experience for students. During this unusual time, we will ensure that students who want to participate in InvestWrite, have that option.

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 prizes at the state and national levels. Prizes can include laptops, cameras, gift cards, trophies, and more!

To get started please visit [www.investwrite.org](http://www.investwrite.org) to view grade level essay questions, access writing guides, view judging criteria and see past award winners. Be sure to access the teacher resources if you are assisting your child or children with this activity. These resources are available under each grade level on the website.

**You WILL need a Stock Market Game Team ID number for each student participating in InvestWrite.**

For more information on how your child or children can participate, or other inquiries, don’t hesitate to contact us. Our program manager will respond to you personally. Please reach out to Jessica Bayer at [jessica@investwrite.org](mailto: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](http://www.investwrite.org)

**InvestWrite Parent Submission Guidelines**

**Fall 2020 Deadline: Friday, December 18, 2020**

Thank you for participating in InvestWrite’s national essay competition! Parents, guardians and other adult caretakers are welcome to submit essays on behalf of minors during the Spring 2020 session.

Please note the following guidelines for a successful submission.

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

* Each parent, guardian or adult designee may submit **only one entry**, per child, per grade level.
* Essays submitted by anyone other than a teacher must be emailed directly to the InvestWrite team at [jessica@investwrite.org](mailto:jessica@investwrite.org) with the accompanying submission form (see below), **not** via the InvestWrite website
* 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.
* **Essays in PDF format cannot be accepted**. All essays need to be in a format that can be cut and pasted to the InvestWrite website.
* 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 **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!

**InvestWrite Essay Submission Form**

**Submit via email to: jessica@investwrite.org**

**Deadline: Friday, December 18, 2020**

**Adult Information:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full Name (First, Last): |  |
| Relationship to Student: |  |
| Email Address: |  |
| Contact Number: |  |
| Location (City, State): |  |

**School Information:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| School Name: |  |
| School Location (City, State) |  |
| SMG Teacher’s Name (if applicable): |  |
| SMG Teacher’s Contact (if applicable): |  |

**Student Information:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student Name (First Name & Last initial ONLY): |  |
| Current Grade: |  |
| SMG Team ID: |  |
| Essay Title (If Applicable): |  |

By submitting this form and the accompanying essay, you are confirming the following:

* **Please confirm the student’s SMG teacher will not be submitting this essay. If the teacher intends to, please forward the essay to the SMG teacher for submission.**
* You have the right to submit on behalf of the student.
* You’ve read and adhered to InvestWrite essay guidelines.
* The essay is a true reflection of the student’s work and writing ability.
* The essay was developed and written solely by the student, without outside assistance.