

Creative Writing: What are our values?

It's time for some creative writing. Using the prompt below, please take the time to write a short response to the prompt and when you are finished share with **[Insert point of contact with email address]** and let him know if it is ok to share your work on here with your fellow students. Please don't feel as if you have to share your work, it is optional.

Prompt: Write about three values that are important to your family.

Use the following instructions to help construct your creative writing activity.

1. What are values?

Values are ideas or principles that we believe to be important to our lives. For example, many people believe that Honesty is a good value to live their lives by. So that being an honest persons means being fair and truthful. For a list of values and ideas, see the attached list.

2. Outline your essay.

Take the time to outline what you want to say and organize your thoughts before you sit down to write. Most people skip this step, but all careful and good writers take the time to outline what they want to say and how they want to present their ideas to others. For this creative writing challenge, I am asking you to create and write an informative essay, these essays ask that you provide an introduction that states your purpose clearly and what you conclude in a few sentences. The next paragraphs should be a discussion of the three values that you and your family believe to be important. Finally, the conclusion should restate in different words what you say in the overall essay, reiterate why the values are important to you and your family and why your audience should consider them.

For each of the values that you choose, think about why they are important to you and your family why should your audience think of them as right or good guidelines. For example, why is honesty a good value? What does it do for you and others? Why should we all practice honesty?

3. Write

The one thing I know for sure about writing is that it is never easy, but it is always worth it. Take the time to write and let your thoughts come out as you move through your outline. At this point its not important to get everything "correct" or in the right order. At this point, just start getting things down and paper and see where the process takes you. There will always be time later to review, edit, and make changes. Have fun with the writing process, writing, much like reading, can transform us and take us on fantastic journeys through our imagination, learn to enjoy the writing process as a dialogue, or discussion, with yourself.

4. Step Away

Once you finished writing your rough draft, put it in a desk drawer and walk away. Let the words sit on the paper and in your head for a few hours before you return to it. Maybe even let it set for a full day. Stepping away allows us to develop fresh eyes for our writing and see areas that might be unclear because when we return to the writing we get to see it new and hear it new. This allows us to see and hear where we may not be clear or using the wrong word when we come back to it.

5. Read it out loud.

Again, this is a difficult step for every writer, however, it is also an essential aspect of the writing process. I always take the time to read my words out loud. Language is about being heard and when we read we are hearing it in our heads, so now is the time to hear it with our ears. Read through your whole essay once out loud. As you hear it, think about what it sounds like to you and make changes and adjustments to it as needed. Take the time to edit and listen to your writing. Writing is a discussion and its important to hear how your words will sound to others.

6. Read it again, edit it again.

All skills take time an practice. Writing is no different. Take the time and effort to re-read, edit, re-read and edit again. Your audience and your writing will thank you. Everyone struggles to write well, there is no exception to that rule. We are all learning how to effectively communicate well and the only way to improve at anything is to practice, practice, practice.

7. Let it go.

There is no such thing as perfection. We can always improve in a lot of ways, its ok to be finished and done and let go. All writing is a work in progress, even, and especially, published work. We can always write differently or present our voice in many different ways. Sometimes it just needs to be finished and left where it is. Be comfortable with letting go and being happy with what you did. What you did is great! It will always be great! Writing is about the process.

As you work on your creative writing, please feel free to reach out with questions and ideas. We are here to help. And remember, have fun with it.

Values are ideas, beliefs, or ways of acting that individuals believe are “right” or “good” ways to behave. These reflect what people believe are important in life.

Some Values Include:

Acceptance	The act of accepting someone or something.
Authenticity	Being true to one’s self, or personality, or character.
Beauty	The qualities in a person or a thing that give pleasure to the senses or the mind.
Caring/ Compassion	Feeling and showing concern for other people.
Commitment	A pledge to do something in the future.
Confidence	A belief in one’s self to accomplish or do something well.
Cooperation/ Teamwork	A situation in which a group of people work together to complete a larger task.
Determination/ Perseverance	A quality that makes you continue trying to do or achieve something that is difficult.
Fairness	The ability to seriously weigh the consideration of multiple concerns.
Friendliness	Acting kind and helpful towards other people.
Generosity	The quality of being kind, understanding, and not selfish.
Honesty	The quality of being fair and truthful.
Integrity	The quality of being honest and fair.
Justice	Treating everyone with fairness before the law.
Modesty	The quality of not being too proud or confident about yourself or your abilities.
Patience	The ability to wait for a long time without becoming annoyed or upset
Responsibility	The ability to complete one’s commitments.
Self-Discipline	Correction or regulation of oneself for the sake of improvement.
Service	Contribution to the welfare of others.
Civic Virtue	Values that tell us how a person should behave as a citizen or member of a community. For example, a civic virtue in many school classrooms is respectful listening to what others have to say.