ULCT Essay Contest
Suggested Lesson Plan

Teaching Goals:

1. To discuss and describe the local community in terms of human/cultural relationships, geographical characteristics, government, economic factors, and in terms of personal satisfaction.
2. To write an essay that describes one's personal feelings about the local community and its positive influence on the writer. Utilize pre-writing, development of a rough draft, editing for content and correct grammar, spelling and usage, and production of a final copy and presentation of that copy to peers, teachers, or family prior to submitting the final document for judging.

Lesson Plan:

1. Introduce the activity—that is, writing an essay about one's community. Discuss what an essay is and how it presents one's views about a topic.
2. As part of the pre-writing process, discuss what makes a description interesting, e.g., descriptive words, comparing and contrasting, telling what one likes and why. Make a list of things that could describe one's community. Students could generate words that describe family, home, community activities, friends, community leaders, ways in which we help each other, geographic features, business activities, celebrations, etc.
3. When students have had an opportunity to brainstorm ideas about the community, give them time to develop a rough draft, let students work in pairs to critique each other's ideas, and then give students time to revise their rough drafts into final documents.

Notes:

If this is going to be an optional activity, the teacher may wish to go through the brainstorming process, and then allow students to complete the writing activities as a homework project. Students should be reminded that rough drafts should be edited before submission.

Essays Due April 8, 2026