

Student Name: _____



Teachers: Please complete the areas in yellow on page 3, or use only the first two pages of this organizer, and distribute to your students

Assignment Organizer

Grades 4-5

Spring 2020

As part of The Stock Market Game you can participate in a fun national writing competition, InvestWrite. Dozens of students around the country win every semester. Check out the prizes and see more information on the website at

www.investwrite.org

To Think About First In The Stock Market Game, you might have used *Fun Facts* and research to guide your portfolio selections. Financial professionals also use facts and conduct research about the financial markets to make good decisions for their clients.

Writing Assignment What are the three most important things you should research before investing in a stock, a mutual fund, and/or a bond? Using this kind of research, choose two investments that you think are good long-term investments (stocks, mutual funds, bonds, or a combination) and explain why you think each one is a wise choice for you. In your essay, describe something you have learned in The Stock Market Game (maybe your very own Fun Facts!) that you think will help you have a brighter financial future.

Writing Organizer

What are the most important things you should research before investing in stocks, bonds, mutual funds? Using your experience in the Stock Market Game, **think of three?**

Due Dates:

TASK	DATE
DRAFT Due	3/16/2020
EDITS Due	3/19/2020
FINAL Due	3/23/2020

Participation is **voluntary/required/extra credit.**

✓ Teachers please adapt the table above for your needs.

✓ Please **NOTE** the essay submission deadline is **Friday, March 27, 2020.**

COMPLETE INFORMATION AND AWARDS CAN BE FOUND AT:

www.investwrite.org

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

- 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

- 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

- 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 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!

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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.

www.investwrite.org

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 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 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.

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!

GRADING RUBRIC—continued on next page