



## Summer Vacation: Yes or No?

Grade level: Grade 6

Return to:

NIEW Liaison \_\_\_\_\_

by (date) \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** Some people believe students should go to school year-round while others think the three month break is important. What do you think?

Be sure your essay has a sharp focus, and is organized well. Start with a strong topic sentence and support it with details. Use precise words. Edit carefully for spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

**Common Core Standards:** CC.1.4.6.H Introduce and state an opinion on a topic. CC.1.4.6.I Use clear reasons and relevant evidence to support claims, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic. CC.1.4.6.J Organize the claim(s) with clear reasons and evidence clearly; clarify relationships among claim(s) and reasons by using words, phrases, and clauses; provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented.

**Common Core Eligible Content:** E06.C.1.1.1 Introduce claims(s) for the intended audience and support the writer's purpose by organizing the reasons and evidence. E06.C.1.1.2 Support claims(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text. E06.C.1.1.5 Provide a concluding section that reinforces the claims and reasons presented.

**Notes to the teacher:** This information is for teacher use and is NOT part of the contest.

Explain that “I like school” or “I don’t like school” are not sufficient reasons to use as the basis for this essay. Students should look beyond their personal situation and feelings to how year-round school or a three month break would benefit the entire school body and community. They could consider things such as academic achievement, expense (to schools and families), family relationships and personal freedom when formulating their essay. Brainstorming will help your students come up with ideas.

**Limit:** One entry per student, with a range of 200 to 350 words.

**Preparation of entries:** Entries should be typed, printed or written on an 8½ x 11 inch paper. All entries must be legible. The following information must be provided on the back of each entry: student's name, age, grade, school, teacher, **word count**, and the name of the NIEW liaison handling the contest.

**Criteria:** Judges will consider both content and format. Entries should include a serious argument with supporting reasons and facts, according to the guidelines above.

**Awards:** First-place winner will receive a check for \$30; second-place, \$20; third-place, \$10. These three winning entries will be reproduced in the Design-an-Ad supplement in the Tuesday, March 7, issue of The Republican-Herald.

**Deadline:** Entries must undergo preliminary judging at the school. Top entries must arrive at The Republican-Herald no later than Tuesday, January 10, to allow time for final judging and production work.