



Global Connect @ UCI 2009 Essay Contest

Essay Topics:

I. Technology in Your Life

II. Globe Trekker

III. United Nations Advisor

Participants

All students participating in the 2008-2009 Global Connect Outreach and Semester Programs at TeWinkle Middle School, Estancia High School, Newport Harbor High School, and Laguna Hills High School are required to submit a written submission that addresses one of the suggested essay topics.

Global Connect Certificate Awards

Submissions will be seen as the final project for the academic year. A Global Connect Program Certificate will be awarded to individual students for their submission and participation in the 2008-2009 GC Program at the May 29, 2009 closing ceremonies.

Format

See individual topic descriptions for details. All submissions must be computer typed.

Submissions of Entries

Completed essays should be submitted to your host teachers no later than Monday, May 11. Late entries will not be considered for recognition.

Prizes

First, second and third place winners will receive medallions of recognition. A special prize goes to the first place winners in each category.

Essay Award Ceremony

On Friday, May 29th, 2009 essay winner will be recognized as a part of the on-campus Global Connect Symposium.

Essay #3: United Nations Advisor

Imagine you are a United Nations Advisor to the 2009 Committee on Human Rights. As an advisor you are asked to select the Millennium Development Goal you consider most urgent and the country in most need of assistance.

You are asked to write a formal statement of purpose to UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon.

To create your statement:

I. Read through the descriptions of the 8 Millennium Development Goals.

Which MDG is linked to the selected human rights article?

(See <http://www.undp.org/mdg/basics.shtml> for a list of MDGs)

(See <http://www.undp.org/mdg/> for a progress report)

In paragraph one address the current progress being made on this goal using information from the website listed above. What are challenges involved in meeting the MDG?

II. Which developing nation needs immediate assistance to realize the selected goal?

(In other words, who needs help the most?) Select your nation off of the HDI.

Listing on the following website. Your country must be ranked 134 -179.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Human_Development_Index

Locate 2 recent news or journal articles (written between 2007- present) that address the issue in the selected country. Print out your selected articles.

II. In the second paragraph, use the information from the articles and the CIA Factbook to explain why your selected county needs immediate assistance.

Hint: Refer to the CIA-Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>) and consider infrastructure (i.e. hospitals, roads, airports, schools, etc.). Draw upon information from the two articles.

III. What are some of the non-state organizations (NGOs) that are working to address the MDG needs in your country? List and describe.

IV. How could developed countries help out? Should someone (country) take a lead?

Create a list of nations to approach for aid/assistance.

V. In the final paragraph, restate the importance of the MDG goal and ways to address the problem. Creatively address some of the ways high school students could become involved.

Hint: Think short term and long term, such as: Acquire new languages, cultural research or define a specific approach you will take to your service within the country (work in clinic, teach, introduce new technology, distribute needed goods, etc.).

(Sample Letter Format)

United Nations
1st Ave & E 44th St
New York, NY 10017

Dear Secretary General:

Paragraph 1

Identify the MDG. Referring to UN Development Programme website, report on the progress that has been made and the challenges involved in meeting the MDG.

Paragraph 2

State the country that you will be serving in as a UN Human Rights Delegate. Using your selected articles, describe the conditions and needs of this country as they relate to your MDG.

Paragraph 3

What are some of the non-state organizations (NGOs) that are working to address the MDG needs in your country? List and describe.

Paragraph 4

How could developed countries help out? Should someone (country) take a lead? Create a list of nations to approach for aid/assistance.

Paragraph 5

In the final paragraph, restate the importance of the MDG goal and ways to address the problem. *Creatively address some of the ways high school students could become involved.*

Respectfully,

[Your signature here!]

U.N. Advisor
(MDG Committee)

(First & Last Name)

Essay #1: Technology in Your Life

Technology has significantly impacted the way we learn. The internet, cell phones, and other devices have made it much easier and much faster to gain information. Though we do not often realize how much we have come to rely on modern technology to learn about the world around us, if it were taken away, we would have to find different ways of gaining information.

In this assignment, you will compare and contrast the way you gain information and the way your parents would have gained information when they were in high school. A few decades ago, the internet and online databases would not have been available and students would have to spend much more time researching their topics.

List A

Select one of the 1945- 1989 topics listed below to research via the use of traditional sources (non-digital):

- 1945: The First Detonation of an Atomic Bomb in Japan
- 1963: The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy
- 1972: Terrorism at the Munich Olympics
- 1979: The Iran Hostage Crisis
- 1989: Tianenmen Square

For the event you have chosen from **List A** you **will only use research methods that were available during the 1980s** (books, encyclopedias, personal interviews with people who were alive during the events). You will gather the details of the event in order to write the same type of report as your first event. *Do NOT use computers to search library databases for books, but you may ask the library to help you find a section of the library or a book that may help you.*

List B

Select one of the 1945- 1989 topics listed below to research via the use of digital sources:

- 1991 - Gulf War I
- 2001 - September 11th (9-11)
- 2004 - Asian Tsunami
- 2008 – Beijing Olympics
- 2008 - Mumbai Terrorist Attacks

You will research a topic from List B as you normally would (using online databases, computer searches at the library, etc). You will gather details of the event in order to write a report on what happened and why.

You will research a topic from List B as you normally would (using online databases, computer searches at the library, etc). You will gather details of the event in order to write a report on what happened and why.

I. Complete a Research Form for each of your topics. Your forms will be considered part of your essay submission.

II. Write an essay that relates to your research findings (things you learned about your topics and analyze the differences (advantages –disadvantages) of conducting research through digital

versus non-digital resources.

Essay Format Outline:

Paragraph 1: Introduce your two chosen topics and indicate which topic you pursued digitally and which topic you researched through the use of more traditional sources.

Paragraph 2: Describe the advantages of each type of research.

Paragraph 3: Describe the disadvantages of each type of research.

Paragraph 4: Research Experiences

Do you think incorporating more technology or less technology will increase your ability to learn? How efficiently do you use technology to learn for school subjects? Personal intellectual pursuits?

Student Name:
School:
Teacher-Intern:

Research Form B: Digital Research

I. Chosen Topic from List B: _____

II. Describe the following details about your chosen topic:
(Write at least 2-3 sentences in response to each question)

f) Who was involved or affected by the event?

g) Where did it occur? (Be specific.)

h) Why did this event occur? (Describe whether it was the action of nation–states or whether it was driven by the actions of an individual or small group?)

i) What happened?

j) Did this event have a global impact? Explain the significance of this event.

III. Find at least 4 different digital resources. List documents/sources used.
(Include the following information: Author, Article/Website/etc. Title, Publish Date, Access Date)

Essay # 2: “Globe Trekker” (Travel Journal)

In your lifetime you will probably have a chance to travel to a foreign locale (country). Perhaps you will work for a company that has branches in different international cities; as a college student you may want to study abroad for a semester or a year; or you may just want to take vacations that will allow you to explore and enjoy other cultures.

Imagine that you were given a plane ticket to travel to a foreign destination of your choice.

- I. First, you will select a foreign country to visit as a “global trekker.” Countries that speak English, are located on the North American continent, or are “developed countries” (see the HDI) are off limits. The more exotic, strange, or interesting a country is the better. Once you have selected a country, look up its capital city and that will be your destination.

- II. As part of this adventure you will conduct some background research on your destination so that you will be prepared for your adventure. The attached worksheet will serve as a travel brief informing about the local economic, cultural, political and social environment. *It would be nice to know if your country is in the middle of a civil war before you leave!*

- III. Drawing upon the information you have gathered in your Travel Brief, you will write a **creative** 2-page journal entry. Using words, imagination, and knowledge of your destination write about your first day there as a global trekker. Be sure that your observations relate to the research you conducted. (*Hint: “I woke up at 7am” won’t cut it unless you can link it to some interesting cultural detail about the country.*) Feel free to make observations about people, places, and current events. **The completed Travel Brief must be submitted with the journal entry.**

Trekker Name:
School:
Teacher-Intern:

Global Trekker Travel Brief

As part of this exercise you will find online photos that depict each of the categories. Label with section (economy, etc) and attach to your brief. At least 1-3 photos per section.

- I. Name of Country: _____ Name of Capital _____

- II. Economy
 - a. GDP _____ GDP per Capita _____
 - b. Dominant means of transportation (cars percapita, public transportation systems, roads, etc)

 - c. Health Conditions & Services
 - i. What diseases should you be concerned about? Vaccinations? Where can you be treated in case of accidents or illness? How developed are the hospitals?

 - d. Unemployment Rate? Prevalence of Homelessness? What % of the population lives below the poverty line?

 - e. Minimum Wage _____
 - f. Literacy Rate _____

 - g. Other economic details of interest (Find at least 2)

III. Cultural Profile (*You will have to google search much of this information on sites other than the CIA Factbook. The more interesting your details, the more interesting your journal will be.*)

- a. What are the predominant religions? (give % of population)

- b. What language(s) is spoken by at least 15% of the population?

- c. What major national holidays/events are celebrated? When? Significance? (Include at least 2)

- d. Fashion: What do people wear? (hint: special shoes, headware, scarves, facial hair, traditional clothing, etc.) (*i.e. Special forces in Afghanistan had to grow facial hair because it was a sign of respect, authority, and manhood*)

- e. Food: Are there any standard/staple foods that are eaten? (*i.e. In some cultures this includes rice, corn, etc.*) Any foods not eaten?

- f. What are cultural taboos?

IV. Political Conditions

- a. Type of government _____

- b. Crime Rate _____

- c. Political Stability: Is there a lot of civil discontent with the government? Protests? Demonstrations? Terrorist attacks? War? Regular and peaceful elections?

- d. Corruption? Can you trust the police?

 - e. What do the locals think of Americans?

 - f. Current Issues?
- V. Social Insights: *Select 2 Social issues to address. Find 3-4 facts of interest for each issue selected*
- a. Status of Women: Are there (many) women in positions of political power? Are women restricted to the household? What is the role of women in society? Do you see them working? Do girls attend school?

 - b. Child Labor: Is there universal education? To what level? Where do children work? What are the conditions? Child Soldiers?

 - c. Race/Indigenous/Ethnic Issues:

 - d. Drugs and/or Diseases

 - e. Other: