

Nonfiction Writing Prompts for Social Studies Suggestions for 4th Grade

1. Illinois is the only state in the United States to celebrate Casimir Pulaski Day. Do you think it is important to take a holiday to celebrate Casimir Pulaski? Why do you think that? Do people really take time to think about why they have a holiday on this day? Give your opinion on whether or not we should take a day in Illinois to celebrate General Pulaski. Be sure to support your opinion with good reasons for thinking the way you do.
2. Your friend no longer believes one person has the power to make the world a better place. Write her a letter explaining that one person can have a positive effect on the world, using the examples of people (living or dead) who were born in Illinois or have lived here.
3. Even though things are very different now from the way they were in the past, some things have remained the same, like having good manners and treating one another with respect. Write a list of rules for children in your classroom that would work just as well for the children in classrooms of long ago or in the future.
4. Imagine you are an eagle flying over the state of Illinois, from Rockford to Chicago, Galena, Springfield, East St. Louis, and Cairo. Describe the major landforms and waterways you see from above. Describe what it feels like to fly over the various landforms and waterways.
5. We know that people sometimes decide to move from one place to another. Tell the story of how you or someone you know has made a move from one part of Illinois to another.
6. Your class has been given the job of deciding what to do with three large pieces of land that are the same size as your playground. One piece is in the city, one is in the suburbs, and the last one is in the country. Make a decision about the best way to use each piece of land and give the reasons why you chose to use the land that way.
7. When we look at pictures and listen to stories about the past, we realize that children went to school then just like we do now. However, school life looked different long ago compared with schools today. Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting school now with school long ago.