



Federal Holidays and 9/11

By: Amanda Martin
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Holiday
Grades 9–12



Introduction

Why are certain days deemed federal holidays? Should September 11th be made into a federal holiday? In this lesson, students will explore that possibility and write a persuasive essay to support their thoughts on the matter.

Learning Objectives

([CCSS.ELA.Literacy.W.9-10.1](#)) Students will write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Materials Needed

- Computers/laptops
- Journals/notebooks/paper

Procedure

1. Ask: *What are federal holidays?* Discuss what federal holidays are with the students. Give examples of federal holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Fourth of July, etc.
2. Students will need their notebooks or journals. In their notebooks or journals, students should write down this question: *What happened on 9/11/01?* Lead a discussion with the students about the events and details surrounding 9/11. Students should take notes in their journals/notebooks. The teacher may also write the details discussed on the board if desired.
3. Students will write a persuasive essay on this topic: *Should 9/11 be made into a federal holiday? Why or why not?* Responses should be written in an attempt to persuade readers on their particular viewpoint. Student responses should be five paragraphs in length with an introductory paragraph, three supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.

Evaluation

Please use the following rubric to evaluate each student's essay.

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Federal Holidays and 9/11	100% (Excellent)	90% (Good)	80% (Okay)	70% or Below (Needs Improvement)
<i>1. The student accurately supports his/her viewpoint.</i>				
<i>2. The student provides supporting statements.</i>				
<i>3. The student provides a concluding statement that supports the claims presented on his/her viewpoint.</i>				
<i>4. The student uses correct grammar and punctuation.</i>				