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THE WRITING SAMPLE PROMPT FOR 7TH GRADE is [now posted](#) on the Curriculum Page under Language Arts. All forms are included. Writing dates are Nov. 16-20. Scoring dates and locations were posted 8/17/09 on Principals News.

Exploring Humanitarian Law Workshop for High School Educators WAR, JUSTICE AND HUMAN DIGNITY Friday November 6th 8:30am - 12:30pm, College of Mt. St. Joseph, Corona Room
Sponsored by the American Red Cross
The Exploring Humanitarian Law program teaches students about respect for human life and dignity, ethical judgment, global citizenship, the protections of the Geneva Conventions and the role of the Red Cross. FREE Exploring Humanitarian Law Curriculum, Free Professional Education Units, and FREE First Aid Kit For information and to register email rayk@cincinnatiaredcross.org. *"EHL and the critical thinking it promotes have empowered students in their ability to understand the world. Rather than despair and give up because of the chaos that is reported on the news, they are reassured by the discovery that there are rules in conflict, and universal standards for human dignity."*
High school social studies teacher, Aurora, Ohio.

3rd and 4th Grade Teachers! Don't forget to Get Energy Smart using the free resources currently being provided by Scholastic/Duke Energy. If you are new to the third and fourth grade this year you can get a Magic School Bus kit sent to you at no cost. Teachers who used the program last year can get new classroom sets of family booklets and surveys sent to them. Teachers whose students return 5 or more surveys will receive 15 free books from Scholastic. Also additional incentives for teachers will be announced soon. Contact [Ohio Program Coordinator](#) at 513-518-6119 at your earliest convenience as some incentives are time sensitive offers!

November is Native American Heritage Month. [RaceBridges For Schools](#) provides two free Lesson Plans that will help students explore the powerful traditions and sometimes untold history of our land's first residents: the American Indian First Nations. Lesson plans contain: Original real-life stories told by two American Indian storytellers, teacher guides, student activities, and more.



SOITA You still have the opportunity to participate in the upcoming SOITA Conference, held at the Dayton Convention Center on December 8-10. There are a few session slots left if you would like to be a presenter. If you are interested in presenting, please submit your [presentation online](#). The deadline for proposals is November 11th. Questions? Contact Elana@SOITA.org.

Call for Strive to Thrive Science Club Sponsors (through Miami U Center for Chemical Education) If you are already working with a science club or have a group of interested students who would love a chance to be part of a club, consider sponsoring a Strive to Thrive club. You'll receive \$300 to support club activities and free copies of the award-winning *Strive to Thrive* handbooks, helping students learn more about the science behind the choices they make every day. As a club sponsor, you'll also receive a \$150 stipend for completing programming during the 2009-10 academic year. See the [club website](#), for details on club benefits and commitments. We have openings for a maximum of five more clubs. Complete the [forms at the club website](#) now and fax them to [Joyce Feltz](#) at 513-727-3328 to take advantage of this limited opportunity. Call Joyce at 513-727-3392.

From NCTE's InBox: Focus on Native American Heritage National American Indian Heritage Month is recognized each November as a time to learn more about the history and heritage of Native American peoples. These resources provide strategies to explore Native American literature and heritage in your own classroom.

The *Language Arts* article "[Proceed with Caution: Using Native American Folktales in the Classroom](#)" (E) explains the importance of selecting texts that include realistic and accurate presentations of Native American peoples. The article includes guidelines for evaluating and selecting Native American literature.

Examine two speeches by Shawnee Chief Tecumseh with the ReadWriteThink lesson [Battling for Liberty: Tecumseh's and Patrick Henry's Language of Resistance](#) (M) and ask students to consider Tecumseh's politically effective and poetic use of language. See the [ReadWriteThink calendar entry](#) for National American Indian Heritage Month for links to additional lesson plans and resources.

"[Contemporary American Indian Life in The Owl's Song and Smoke Signals](#)" (S) from *English Journal* explores how to teach the novel and film together in a unit that "paints a realistic picture of contemporary American Indian life" while inviting students to identify with protagonists who grow in both self-awareness and their appreciation of others.