

Dear Family:

Writing skills are the key to your child's success in school and beyond. In school, your child is learning how to write great research reports with **The Writing Edge!**[™], an education program from Scholastic and Mead. The goal is to motivate and inspire your child to be a more confident and able writer, and to teach him or her research skills to explore the world.

Please support your child's writing at home by helping him or her participate in **The Writing Edge! Essay Contest**. Your child can win a **\$750 U.S. savings bond** by submitting a short essay about an imaginary interview.

We encourage you to help your child improve his or her writing skills throughout the year and get the writing edge!

Sincerely,



Steve Palm
Scholastic Inc.



Neil McLachlan
MeadWestvaco Consumer & Office Products



Making Research Papers Simple!

Help your child organize his or her next research project with colored index cards. Here's how!

1. Sit down with your child and write the following at the top of five different colored index cards:
 - INTRODUCTION
 - QUESTION 1
 - QUESTION 2
 - QUESTION 3
 - CONCLUSION
2. Select one card each day and challenge your child to find information that relates to that specific card. Write down the facts and the source on the card.
3. Over time, find three to four facts about each topic. Remind your child to be consistent—if he or she runs out of room on the green index card about the introduction, an additional green index card can be used.
4. Once your child has collected three or four cards worth of information for each topic, the writing process can begin.



Your child can store his or her index cards in the Mead Brights[™] Index Card Dispenser!



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