

# What Makes a Good ISTEP Essay?

Please read and rank the six sample ISTEP essays from best to worst. Number 1 will be the best essay. Number 6 will be the worst essay. Give at least **THREE** reasons for why you ranked each essay where you did.

1. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ (BEST)

2. Title \_\_\_\_\_

3. Title \_\_\_\_\_

4. Title \_\_\_\_\_

5. Title \_\_\_\_\_

6. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ (WORST)

# Sample ISTEP Essays

1. Title: pool

I will have big ~~slides~~ <sup>slides h</sup> a ~~High dive~~ <sup>rope / ramp</sup> and a swing ~~a~~ <sup>and</sup> it will be free for my friends.

2. Title: Memories

Can you remember when you ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> a child? One of the biggest things on your mind would probably have been the city park. You would rush down the slide ~~x~~ while your mom or dad stood at the bottom to catch you. Maybe ~~x~~ some of your best memories are from the park. Don't you want the same for your children?

Everyone in the community can in some way use a park, pool, fields, courts, or playgrounds. Whether you watch your son's baseball game or participate in the game, you are still using the park ~~and recreation~~. Instead of getting involved in drugs, the youth of this town could go swimming at the nearby pool.

You hear stories of kids who grow up in a small town and end up becoming star athletes. Fields and courts of many natures would promote and encourage athletic talent. School ~~sponsored~~ <sup>sponsored</sup> teams would have more locations to practice and therefore would become better and give our school a better reputation. Also, sports fields would introduce the art of competition, which is good to learn early. <sup>early in the day?</sup> <sup>early in life?</sup>

The city would probably not be alone in funding for the equipment. In many instances, people involved in the city donate money to buy new things. Parks, fields, and pools are used by a wide variety of people, so more funds would be given. Also, when the park equipment needs to be replaced, it is a simple task, and it will not just be ~~left~~ <sup>left</sup> out to rot. <sup>will be</sup>

? didn't do a good job of mentioning this!

Most of all, these five complexes would bring the whole family together. Isn't family togetherness the base of a community? Parents would be more involved in their child's life, and there would not be as much violence or hatred. Don't forget the memories. You do not want your children to grow up without some fun in their lives. So, upon my decision of what the council should finance, I stand strong. I hope that you will consider putting money toward a new park that will include a pool, fields, courts and playgrounds. The question you can ask yourself is, "Will I be standing at the bottom of the slide, ready to catch my kin?" No one but you can decide what is best for your children, but deep in your heart, remember what you loved best when you were that age.

Yoda, are we?

There's better words than this...

3. Title: House For Animals

I think we should build an animal shelter. There are so many un wanted animals in our town, it is getting way out of hand. The animals aren't safe, and the pound is catching them and putting them to sleep, and I think it is wrong to do that to a poor defenseless animal. It isn't their fault no body wants them, they need love, and that is why I say we need an animal shelter.

4. Title: A Good Place

I think ~~x~~ we should put a new ~~b~~ Basketball court, ~~a~~ underground pool, and lots of stores. One more thing ~~a nurse place~~ just in case ~~x~~ someone gets hurt, ~~and~~ I think this is a good vote for this and a good job for people. Vote for this.

first aid station? hospital?

needs re-worded

## 5. Title: Library

Torn books, grimy computers, ~~stained~~ <sup>stained</sup> flooring, no internet, . . . is this what you want your library to look like? We need a new and improved library. I believe a library would help all of us with education. A library could do three things: it could help students succeed, it could give us new, accurate information, and it could give us better programs for people of all ages.

With a new library, students could have a better education. Students could have more books to look up information with. The library would have better internet, which would be better for everyone in the town, not just students. It would have additional computers, so nobody would fight over them. With a new library we could do these many things.

We could have new books in the library. New books carry more accurate and up to date information which would help all ages of students. Books wouldn't fall apart at the faintest touch, if we were to build a new library. There would be more recent authors, ~~so those authors can get paid too~~, <sup>classic</sup> instead of ~~your normal author~~ like J.R.R. Tolkien.

There could be better programs using the library. We could have ~~these~~ events for toddlers, <sup>teaching</sup> to teach them colors, shapes, and numbers. We could have art programs for kids, which allow them to express their creativity. There would be programs that allow teens to do more than sleep, eat, homework, and watch ~~t.v.~~ <sup>t.v.</sup> Programs for adults would teach them something that they need help with, such as child care.

As you can ~~obviously~~ <sup>obviously</sup> see, we need a library. It could help with education and boredom. To not have a library would be like squeezing an orange of its juice. Just think, you wouldn't like a library like the one I first described, would you?

What the heck is  
this simile saying?

6. Title: Town Council Project

I think the town council should vote on a new library that will include new books, additional computers, and better internet access. It is important to have a place besides school where kids can get information and ~~resources~~ <sup>resources</sup> outside of the classroom. Students' grades are dropping and a lot of kids are just interested in watching T.V. or playing video games. All of that can change if we push the town to get a new library and push the students as well. Education is a value in the United States and it doesn't need to be taken for granted.

If <sup>we</sup> build this library, ~~then~~ it will help kids get better grades and raise money for schools. A park or animal shelter wouldn't improve ~~to~~ <sup>for</sup> many things in a student's life. Plus, kids are at the park playing and not doing their homework. So if you ~~was~~ <sup>were</sup> going to build a park, you would hurt the student's education and that's not what this town needs. If we are going to put money somewhere, let's put it in something that counts.

We can make this town a better place if we build a new library. Kids who don't have a computer can come to the library and do his homework or write a paper. The list goes on of what all students of this town could accomplish. So vote for a new library for the students to learn and earn.

This is never explained!

What/how are they earning?  
This was never explained!

no new details in conclusion!