

**Activity**

Students write an informative essay about aspects of the *Takuwe* Belief panel.

**Grades**

9-12

**Content Areas**

English Language Arts

**Skills**

- Informative essay writing
- Supporting claims with evidence
- Identifying reliable resources for information
- Citation of sources

**Understandings**

1. Writing about information in depth without conveying personal opinions is an important aspect of communication.

**Procedure**

1. Review informative writing with students. The purpose of informative writing is to either increase knowledge, explain a procedure, or explore a concept. An informative essay contains an introduction, body, and conclusion. It answers questions about a topic without involving personal opinions or ideas. To help students begin thinking about key points, their essays may include the following questions:
  - Who or what is the topic about?
  - When did this take place (time period)?
  - Who or what was affected?
  - Why is this topic important?
2. In this writing assignment students will choose between two topics and write an informative essay. Length and font may be determined by teacher, but basic grammar rules and essay format are non-negotiable. Suggested topics are:
  - The Ghost Dance
  - Wovoka
3. Provide students with access to the *Takuwe* Belief panel. This will serve as a good starting resource. Students should look for other reputable resources for more information on their specific topic. It is important to remind students to check the reliability of other sources before relying on them.
4. Teacher may have students present their informative essays to the whole class or in small groups.