



# Scholars Speak!

Dear Room 20 Students,

We are ready to start Scholars Speak! Our Scholars Speak program will give you the opportunity to write, illustrate, and make an oral presentation to your classmates several times throughout the year. By the end of the year, you will be amazed at the progress you have made in each of these areas!

**Here is the process:**

1. **Write about the assigned topic.** Before you write, create a pre-writing outline or thinking map to help you organize your thoughts. The length of the final writing will be short - about 1-3 paragraphs, depending on the assignment. Your final writing will be neatly hand-printed on the assignment paper. It should be your best writing, filled with specific details, good organization, strong sentences, and excellent writing conventions. But you will also need to be concise! You will hand in both your prewriting and final writing on the day you present. The final writing and illustration will be put on display in the classroom.
2. **Illustrate your essay.** At the top of the Scholar Speaks written essay paper, you will create a colorful illustration. It will serve as a visual aid to add meaning to your speech.
3. **Rehearse at home.** Create a short 1-2 minute oral presentation to share your essay. The attached rubric highlights the speaking skills you should develop. Rehearse at home in order to do your best.
4. **Present!** We will display your illustration on the SmartBoard as you are speaking. After you speak, you will answer questions from the audience. Your classmates will also give you "Glows and Grows" to highlight what you did well and to give you constructive advice to improve your presentation skills.



**The Scholars Speak topics** will address the fifth grade Common Core writing standards. This means that the topics could include:

- opinion writing
- informational writing
- researched writing
- writing based on literary or informational text

At times, the topics could be cross-curricular, meaning that you might write, illustrate, and present on a topic you have learned in science, social studies, or math.

We will do Scholars Speak several times throughout the year. All writing and illustrations will be due on the Monday of the presentation week. Six students will present each day.

Happy writing, illustrating, and presenting! I can't wait to get started!

Mrs. Stelter