

Essay Contest for Children and Young People of African Descent 2013

7-10 Years

Instructions

1. You have 2 hour and thirty minutes to write your essay using 300 to 500 words.
2. On the front page, please have them write your :

Name: Nia Made ~~Nia~~

Age : 10

Title of the Essay: 5

Choose one topic to write your essay

1. Think about reading.
Do you like reading? Why is it important to read?
2. Think about how you spend your time with your family.
What are your favourite things you enjoy doing with your family and why?
3. Think about things you have learnt in the last year at school and with family.
In the last year, what have been the most important or interesting lessons you learnt at school or at home?
4. Think about your parents' or grandparents' training.
Do you listen to your parents and grandparents when they are teaching you something? How do you show them that you are listening or that you have learnt the lesson?
5. Think about a younger brother, sister, cousin, friend or neighbour and the times you spend together.
What can a younger person learn from you? Give examples of when you taught a younger person something and how you felt when you were teaching them.

I'm going to write about the time I taught my little cousin how to count to ten.

After about the first month of primary school my little cousin 'Lashay' asked me how to count ^{to ten}. I was so happy that she'd actually asked me how to teach ^{her} to count to ten. I was also surprised that she wanted to learn because she was only 3 years old. At school she just played and the teachers didn't really bother teaching the children basics until they reached a certain age. She was very determined to learn, as when I started teaching her she was very slow at getting it, however I didn't give up on her.

From then on, every time I saw her she tried to count to ten. Most of the time she'd get it wrong, but I just went over it with her and she became much more confident about her learning. Even her teacher noticed ~~her self of steam~~ how much more confident she had become in herself and her learning, and praised 'Lashay' a lot.

After a couple of weeks of teaching her, I went to her house. She played for a bit, then I said to her to count up to ten. She said that she'd forgot. I got angry at her and said that she's a silly girl and that she doesn't know anything. She started crying. Right that minute I realised how I'd been acting. I said I was sorry and that I was just upset

that she hadn't bothered to practise. Instead of me getting annoyed that she hadn't did it, I tried to teach her a different way. I got a piece of paper and a pen and I drew the numbers up to ten. When I said a number I asked her to point to it, at first she got upset because she didn't know what to do at first but I reassured her and soon she was doing really good. I was so proud that my cousin was going to be one of the first people in her class to be able to count up to ten. After I had taught her she went to bed and I ended up staying as well.

When we woke up in the morning she tried to tell me her numbers up to ten but she had forgot them again! So I tried a different tactic I went to the shop and I brought ~~ten sweets~~ three lots of ten sweets. I knew Lashay loved sweets. I laid ten sweets on a plastic plate and gave each of them a number up to ten. I asked Lashay to repeat them to me and she did perfectly without any mistakes or me helping her. I gave her ~~the~~ ten sweets, I did the same thing with her two more times just to make sure it wasn't a one off but she got it right both times as well.

From that experience I've learnt a lot. I've learnt that I shouldn't get annoyed so easily, also that I've got to try different tactics with different people. I hope that I'll be able to teach my other two baby cousins how to count to ten, and I'll be very successful with it. I have also learnt that I shouldn't be so harsh on people a lot younger than me.