



Merry Christmas, Students! Santa has the ability to give the perfect presents to each of you. Something you've always wanted; something for which you have secretly yearned. Not a vintage metallic blue Mustang, not a new iPod, not designer jeans, because there is a catch -- the gift must be intangible, or abstract. This means that you cannot perceive it directly with the five senses. For example, you might want patience, self-confidence, intuition. Tell Santa what three abstract qualities you want, why each is a perfect gift, why you need each, and how each will affect your life.

Instructions for Essay/Letter to Santa

1. Choose three abstract qualities for which you will ask Santa. Include these three qualities in a thesis sentence at the end of your introduction. Convince Santa that you deserve these qualities.
2. Each body paragraph needs a topic sentence that requests the quality you want. Then support your topic sentence with reasons or promises. Focus on one quality in each paragraph.
3. Your conclusion should reword your thesis and broaden your topic, perhaps to next year, or the rest of your life, enhanced by these new qualities.

Make your paper look like a real letter with five paragraphs in the body.

Your Address
Date

Salutation,

Introduction, with thesis sentence at the end. This is a good place to tell Santa how good you have been.

Abstract Quality Paragraph 1, with a topic sentence, supported by reasons and/or promises.

Abstract Quality Paragraph 2, with a topic sentence, supported by reasons and/or promises.

Abstract Quality Paragraph 3, with a topic sentence, supported by reasons and/or promises.

Conclusion, with your thesis reworded. Project. Promise. Cajole.

Closing,
Signature

P.S. Any special messages for Santa?

This is a real essay, and it gets a real grade!
Adapted from an assignment created by Linda Kramer.