



Kindergarten Essay Grading Rubric
Final Grade: _____/20

Area of Assessment	4 Points	3 Points	2 Points	1 Point
Content				
The essay directly addresses the prompt, tells a story from the first-person point of view, and showcases a deep understanding of The Be Kind Pledge™.	The essay demonstrates outstanding alignment with the prompt and The Be Kind Pledge. The story is authentic, engaging, and deeply connected to The Be Kind Pledge.	There is strong alignment with the prompt and The Be Kind Pledge. The story is clear and meaningful but could be more engaging or detailed.	There is partial alignment with the prompt and The Be Kind Pledge. The story lacks depth or a strong connection.	There is poor alignment or missing connection to The Be Kind Pledge. The story is unclear or absent.
Effort and Creativity				
The submission demonstrates originality, creativity, and a unique perspective.	The essay shows clear effort, and the ideas are original and creative for the student's age.	The essay shows good effort and some creative ideas.	The essay shows moderate effort but lacks creativity or originality.	The essay shows minimal effort and creativity.
Writing and Conventions				
The writing includes clear letters, spacing between words, and correct basic spelling for age-appropriate words. Punctuation is used correctly (e.g., period at the end of a sentence).	The writing demonstrates outstanding use of writing conventions for the student's age. Letters are clear, words are spaced appropriately, and basic spelling and punctuation are correct.	The writing shows good use of writing conventions for the student's age. Most letters are clear, spacing is mostly appropriate, and there are minor errors in spelling or punctuation.	The writing reflects partial use of writing conventions. Some letters are unclear, spacing is inconsistent, or there are multiple errors in spelling or punctuation that make the writing harder to understand.	The writing demonstrates poor use of writing conventions. It is difficult to read due to unclear letters, inconsistent spacing, or frequent errors in spelling and punctuation.
Drawing and Visual Presentation				
The drawings clearly connect to the writing and add meaning or creativity. They are original, creative, and give the submission a personal flair.	The drawings clearly connect to the writing and add meaning or creativity.	The drawings mostly connect to the writing and add some meaning.	The drawings are somewhat connected to the writing but lack detail or relevance.	The drawings do not connect to the writing or are absent.
Adherence to Guidelines				
Submission uses the provided template, includes both written and drawing portions, and is only one page. The submission does NOT reveal the student's contact information on the front of the page.	The essay fully adheres to requirements.	There are minor issues with requirements. The submission is missing ONE of the following: uses the provided template, includes a written portion, includes a drawing portion, is limited to one page, hides student's contact information	There are significant issues with requirements. The submission is missing TWO of the following: uses the provided template, includes a written portion, includes a drawing portion, is limited to one page, hides student's contact information	There are major issues or non-compliance.