

After Reading This I Believe II- Choose 4 of your favorite stories and list the titles then answer the following questions:

Questions

1. What was different about the 3-4 peoples' beliefs expressed?
2. What was similar about the beliefs?
3. How do their beliefs relate to your lives?
4. Did their beliefs inspire you to think about your beliefs? Why or why not?
5. What is the purpose of understanding your beliefs?
6. How might beliefs (theirs or yours) inspire you to action?
7. What did you enjoy about This I Believe?
8. To what essay(s) did you react strongly?
9. What do you think the authors of the essays accomplished through their writing?

IMPORTANT MOMENTS

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

- When did you first realize your family loves you?
- When did you learn that it is better to tell the truth?
- Who was the first person to make you feel invincible?
- When did you realize you could be anything you want to be?
- When did you learn that life isn't always fair?
- Who taught you that sometimes things don't work out the way you want them to?
- When did you learn that you can't always get what you want?
- How did you learn about the Tooth Fairy, or other characters?
- Has anyone ever tested your faith?
- Have you ever done something that you regret? What did you learn from that moment?

Pre-writing sheet

What Do You Think?

In the space in front of each belief statement, write an A if you agree or a D if you disagree.

- _____ Life's fair.
- _____ Words can hurt.
- _____ Police are your friends.
- _____ What goes around comes around.
- _____ How you act in a crisis shows who you really are.
- _____ Love conquers all.
- _____ An eye for an eye...
- _____ People learn from their mistakes.
- _____ You can't depend on anyone else; you can only depend on yourself.
- _____ If you smile long enough you become happy.
- _____ Miracles do happen.
- _____ There is one special person for everyone.
- _____ Money can't buy happiness.
- _____ Killing is wrong.
- _____ Doing what's right means obeying the law.

This I Believe Essay-Writing Guidelines and Sample Essays (from www.thisibelieve.org)

You write your own statement of personal belief. We understand how challenging this is—it requires such intimacy that no one else can do it for you. To guide you through this process, we offer these suggestions:

Tell a story: Be specific. Take your belief out of the ether and ground it in the events of your life. Consider moments when belief was formed or tested or changed. Think of your own experience, work, and family, and tell of the things you know that no one else does. Your story need not be heart-warming or gut-wrenching—it can even be funny—but it should be real. Make sure your story ties to the essence of your daily life philosophy and the shaping of your beliefs.

Be brief: Your statement should be between 350 and 500 words. That's about three minutes when read aloud at your natural pace.

Name your belief: If you can't name it in a sentence or two, your essay might not be about belief. Also, rather than writing a list, consider focusing on one core belief, because three minutes is a very short time.

Be positive: Please avoid preaching or editorializing. Tell us what you do believe, not what you don't believe. Avoid speaking in the editorial "we." Make your essay about you; speak in the first person.

Be personal: Write in words and phrases that are comfortable for you to speak. We recommend you read your essay aloud to yourself several times, and each time edit it and simplify it until you find the words, tone, and story that truly echo your belief and the way you speak.

Essay will be due typed to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) after school starts.