

## Your Thoughts About Reconciliation

**The activity may bring up some emotions which could be difficult to process.  
Please do not complete this activity without your teacher present.**

**Ask your teacher to help you find the contact information for support programs in  
your community before starting this activity.**

This handout will give you the instructions for writing an essay about your views on reconciliation. Your essay will have two parts. Instructions for each part are outlined below

### Part 1: Descriptive Writing (2-3 paragraphs)

Reminder:

Descriptive writing is when you write and describe things using the five senses:

- Sight
- Sound
- Smell
- Taste
- Touch

Descriptive writing can also include descriptions of internal feelings and emotions.

Write about what survivors went through when they were at school.

1. To make this section authentic, you will need to do some research. You can:
  - a. interview Residential School survivors from your community.
  - b. read about or watch survivors' experiences online.
2. Use the stories you hear or read about to inform your piece of descriptive writing.
3. Remember to include the **five senses** (where it makes sense) and **internal feelings or emotions** when writing.

ALTERNATE: If you feel uncomfortable writing about survivors' experiences, write about your own experience while learning about residential schools and listening to Residential School survivors. Write about what you felt with your own five senses while learning and about your own internal feelings and emotions.

### Part 2: Essay (4-5 paragraphs)

Write down your opinions about the Government's attempts to move towards reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Use your descriptive writing as **evidence** to help make your point about reconciliation. (i.e. The experience I talked about in the first section makes me believe that...)
2. You need to describe:
  - a. What has been **promised** by the Government
  - b. What has been **done** by the Government
  - c. Whether or not you think we are **moving towards reconciliation**Make sure that you describe **at least two** specific actions that the Canadian Government has taken.

#### Extension: Using Your Voice

Consider sending your essay to the office of the Prime Minister.

Everyone has the right to make sure that their voice is heard. Now that you have put together your thoughts about the Government's policies towards reconciliation, you can use your voice to let the Government know what you think and how you feel.

Work with your teacher to shape your essay into a letter addressed to the Prime Minister. Mail your letter to the address below to make sure your voice is heard:

Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A2