



## *Wit & Wisdom:* Writing from the Children of The Saturday Tutoring Program

Ohio's Achievement Tests and Graduation Tests call for more than darkening the circles of multiple choice questions. Sometimes students need to respond in sentences or paragraphs, so children in The Saturday Tutoring Program are encouraged to write during every tutoring session.

Each week, all students in grades 1 through 12 respond to the same writing prompt. Director Linda Wilson provides the prompts. Tutors guide pre-writing discussions and post-writing editing. For years, Ms. Wilson reviewed all of the weekly essays. For the past two years, CWRU students have been reviewing, correcting, and complimenting the students' work.

Here is one Saturday's prompt: On the topic "**I Am a Leader!**" choose to respond to some of these questions: a) Who are the leaders in your class or school? b) Who are the

leaders among your friends? c) What makes them the leaders? d) Make a list of the times others have followed your lead. e) Tell the story, with lots of details, of one of those times!

We hope you will find the following excerpts as enchanting, profound, clever, mature, and inspiring as we do. You may be amazed at how often you agree with the students' ideas.

Danny, Grade 6:  
It's hard being a leader. Other people always count on you to make things right.

Tylar, Grade 4:  
I make my own decisions. I strive to be like my mom because she is a leader to me.

Brittany, Grade 12:  
A leader in my class is a 12<sup>th</sup> grader, who is a class clown and likes to stand up for what is right, even if it means getting in trouble.

Tiah, Grade 11:  
Leaders are people who are responsible, respectful, and honest.

Nicholas, Grade 10:  
My friend is a leader mainly because he listens to and respects others, even adults.

Marc, Grade 8:  
I am a leader on my school's basketball team. They look to me for encouragement. The younger kids look at me for inspiration.

Diane, Grade 9:  
Being yourself can easily make you a leader.

Randyl, Grade 11:  
At times, I feel I must follow in order to lead.

Tyuan, Grade 10:  
Leaders are people who are followed by others because of their accomplishments, visions, and tenacity.

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In next month's *Covenant News*, look for another installment of "Wit & Wisdom."