

# AN OLD TRADITION

## Expository Writing

- To explain or describe something.
- Need strong topic sentence or thesis.
- Use transition words between sentences & paragraphs: *next, because, then, first, however, for example, after, besides, begin, since, although, finally...*

**Directions:** Read the following history of Halloween and complete the essays.

Halloween, also known as All Hallow's Eve, Allhalloween, and All Saint's Eve, is a unique and historical tradition. There is debate regarding the original meaning, but it probably started as an ancient Celtic end of summer celebration about 2,000 years ago in northwestern Europe. Later, the Christian church used it to remember the dead, especially important people like saints (hallows). Today, it has morphed more into silly fun with costumes, candy, and scary movies. In the 1800's, large numbers of Scottish and Irish immigrants came to America, bringing their traditions with them:



**Jack-o'-lantern** – a carved, lighted pumpkin (or turnip) used to frighten away evil spirits.

**Trick-or-Treat** – The practice of children getting a reward in return for praying for a person's soul, also a reward for not playing a mischievous trick on a home.

**Costumes** – a way to frighten-off spirits in old times, more for fun in modern times.

**Traditional Food** – candy apples, roasted sweet corn, pumpkin seeds, bonfire toffee (Great Britain), barmbrack (Ireland), and soul cakes.

With the help of national publications, modern trick-or-treating with costumes, games, and food became popular in the United States during the 1930's.

**Essay #1:** Explain how Halloween has transformed over time. Use examples to support your topic sentence. **(10-16 sentences)**

**Essay #2:** Discuss why humans have traditions and festivals. What makes people want to gather and have a special event? Give specific examples of events to support your topic sentence.

**(8-12 sentences)**