

THIRTY-THIRD “CELEBRATION OF YOUTH” ESSAY CONTEST

CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT 2021

- SPONSOR:** **Global Harmony Through Personal Excellence, Inc.**
Our website is: www.globalharmonyexcellence.org
- THEME:** During the pandemic, what has been most challenging for you, and how did you respond? In your essay, share with us what you have learned about yourself and others over the last year.
- RESPONSE DATE:** **Friday, May 7, 2021.** Essays must be emailed, postmarked, or hand delivered by Friday, May 7, 2021.
- ELIGIBILITY:** Students in grades 4-9 in a DC Public School or Public Charter School.
- GUIDELINES:**
- * 300 – 500 words (grades 4-6). Typed or neatly handwritten in the student's own handwriting.
 - * 450 - 650 words (grades 7-9). Must be typed in easy to read font.
 - * Each entry must have the following information: the student's name, grade level, the school's name, and the name and email of a teacher to contact. The telephone number and email of the student are very much appreciated and make things easier, but they are not required.
 - * Entries need to address the theme of this essay contest.
 - * Entries must be about a true experience from the student's own life.
 - * All entries become the permanent property of the sponsor.
 - * Email entries must be sent to the correct grade level address.
- PRIZES:** Winners in each category (grades 4-6 & 7-9) will receive the following cash awards:
- | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------|
| First Place | - | \$350.00 and certificate |
| Second Place | - | \$325.00 and certificate |
| Third Place | - | \$300.00 and certificate |
| Fourth Place | - | \$275.00 and certificate |
| Fifth Place | - | \$250.00 and certificate |
| Honorable Mention | - | \$125.00 and certificate |
- Winners will be announced before or on May 20, 2021.
- Winners and honorable mentions are required to attend a Zoom session to receive their prize. Students read their prize-winning essay aloud. Prizes will be mailed in June.** Winners and their essays will be publicized. Pictures, essays, and videos of the students reading their prize-winning essays may be used on our website and other places to honor and to showcase the success of the students and their participation in the essay competition.

JUDGING: Entries will be judged on writing skills, following the guidelines, authentic expression, clarity, originality, spelling, and neatness. This contest values thoughtful, heartfelt self-expression about oneself and one's life.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS: A **minimum** of twenty-five students will receive an Award of Special Mention in June. Priority will be given to students from schools not represented in the winner and honorable mention categories. These students will be notified by mail. **The award includes a letter of congratulations and a \$25.00 check.**

CHECKLIST: Questions to ask yourself before submitting:
Is this my best?
Did I address the topic? Are my examples and details true?
Does the length of my essay follow the guidelines?
Do I have my name, grade level, and the other required information?
Did I do a spell check? Is my essay as neat as I can make it?
Do I want to have a coach check my essay?

COACHING SUPPORT: The International English Honor Society at UDC provides coaching support for this essay contest to students who request it. Contact Dr. Krauthamer at (202) 274-5626. Her Email is: hkrauthamer@udc.edu. They would welcome the opportunity to give students support.

TO SUBMIT by email: Use the emails below ONLY to submit your essays. **Teachers submitting essays for their students**, please submit essays individually or in groups of no more than 6 essays in one email attachment. **PLEASE put the name of the student in the subject line of the email.**

Grades 4 to 6, use this email: grades4to6.33@globalharmonyexcellence.org

Grades 7 to 9, use this email: grades7to9.33@globalharmonyexcellence.org

TO SUBMIT by mail or in person: Dorothea and Jim Brady
3925 Livingston Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20015-2921

To contact Dorothea or Jim Brady, call (202) 244-1682 between 8:00am and 8:00pm or use Dorothea's email dorotheabrady@globalharmonyexcellence.org

Below is a letter about the contest.

THIRTY-THIRD “CELEBRATION OF YOUTH” ESSAY CONTEST

proudly sponsored by

GLOBAL HARMONY THROUGH PERSONAL EXCELLENCE, INC.

Telephone: (202) 244-1682 www.globalharmonyexcellence.org

Dear Principals, Teachers, Students, and all Dedicated Supporters of the younger generation,

We would be honored to have your students participate in the thirty-third “*Celebration of Youth*” essay contest. Our tradition is our goal; we want winners from schools across the city. The heart and wisdom in the stories of young people can help us see and support students more effectively in these challenging times. Through personal reflection the essayists can often see themselves in a new light. They can change hearts and minds with their voices.

This writing competition is open to all young people in grades 4 through 9 who attend a DC public school or a publicly funded charter school. We are working to get out the word to eligible students, especially to students in grades 7 to 9 because we have had fewer entries from older students in recent years.

The contest due date is Friday, May 7th, 2021. Most students may submit their essays by email. Hand delivery and regular mail are also options. Winners will be announced in the third week of May.

The theme and other essential information are given on the page above that says Contest Announcement. All the information is posted on our website. We send out emails and list the announcement in DCPS and DCPCS e-newsletters. Every principal is sent an announcement as well as many after school programs. We do our best to reach students and support them in this contest.

We want to ensure that every eligible student who wants to participate has the necessary support. We can offer quality assistance to students who want to enter the contest and want some help with ideas, clarity, grammar, and overall supervision with their essay. We partner with UDC to offer this assistance. Quality coaches are willing to help students with their essays and are excited to support young people in developing and refining their writing skills for this essay competition. Too, this coaching opportunity can support teachers who want their students to participate in the contest, but simply do not have the time to devote to this opportunity.

Ten winners, five from grades 4-6 and five from grades 7-9, will be chosen in May. More than twenty-five students will be declared Honorable Mentions along with the winners. In June, at least 25 more students will be selected as Special Mentions. Students declared Winners and Honorable Mentions are asked to participate in a Zoom session before they receive their prize money. The winners will have an opportunity to come together in a group meeting on Zoom on the 28th of May. Attendance in a Zoom session is required for students to receive their prizes. In addition, winners and honorable mentions are encouraged to send us a video reading their prize-winning essay aloud. We would be honored and delighted to showcase you on our web site.

We are proud that students from all sections of the city have won and that many of the

eligible schools have participated over the past 32 years. While good writing skills are important, our contest highly values authentic expression. Winning essays show self-reflection. The student might express emotional depth or reveal humor. The winning essays are rich in detail and give personal examples from the student's own life. An essay with an interesting story or a unique approach to the theme can go far in this contest. The student with a prize-winning essay has an honest, clear, and heartfelt way of writing about the topic. Many criteria are taken into consideration, and this gives students who never thought they could express well, a chance to win and be valued for sharing their thoughts and feelings.

For your essay to be competitive, we encourage you to follow the guidelines. Essays which do not address the theme will be disqualified. Essays way too short or substantially over the word limit will not win. One entry per student is the rule. If a student participated in the past but did not win, please do not give up. Different themes speak to different individuals.

To encourage the participation of students, sometimes a principal will appoint a reading coach, counselor, or particular teacher within the school to coordinate this contest. Teachers might make the contest a writing assignment, an “extra” credit opportunity, or brainstorm with a group of interested students, encouraging them to explore, organize, and personalize the theme. Identifying personal examples can be helpful to the student's success. Teachers can help spell check, and a teacher can direct the students to a team of coaches we provide.

Volunteers, coaches, and judges contribute their time and talents to support the children. Past judges have included authors, professional writers, university professors, and members of the press corps. Community leaders, politicians, sport teams, and special figures around the world have praised the children's efforts in this contest. There is support for DCPS/DCPCS children.

We would be delighted and honored to receive entries from your students in the 33rd **“Celebration of Youth”** essay contest. We hope you do participate in this opportunity, but whether you do or do not, we wish you and the students much success and well-being. We thank you, and we salute you for the challenging and necessary work you do every day as our city's educators. You are awesome and invaluable.

With respect, thankfulness, and anticipation,

Dorothea and Jim Brady, and Rebecca Carroll

www.globalharmonyexcellence.org

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