

2008 ESSAY & ARTWORK CONTEST GUIDELINES

RESPECT

Dear State President and Essay and Art Contest Chairman:

National FCE members nationwide present an annual contest for all 4th grade students in public, private, and home schools. National FCE's Essay & Artwork Contest promotes FCE's literacy programs, CHARACTER COUNTS! and community involvement. The purpose of the 2008 contest is to encourage students to understand and practice RESPECT, one of the Six Pillars of Character. The contest encourages students to strive for excellence and creativity in reading, writing, and drawing skills.

TIMELINE:

1. COUNTY LEVEL:

- The contest will start at the county level.
- The contest runs **September 1, 2007 thru January 31, 2008**.
- Each county is responsible for notifying its local schools. It is suggested that the principal of each school be contacted and asked for approval. Contact individual teachers after approval is given by the principal.
- Sign and complete the information for the fourth grade teachers. Make a copy for each teacher you visit or contact.
- If you choose to inform them of the local and state awards, type an additional paper stating what the awards are.
- Retired teachers are a good source for judging the entries. **Each judge should receive a letter stating the contest guidelines and a judging sheet.** This will ensure that judges will use the same criteria on all levels.
- County level judging begins February 1, 2008. Local groups and counties may provide prizes and recognition to local and county winners. County prizes and awards should not exceed State and National Awards.
- Obtain a permission slip from the county winner. Send this form with the essay/art work.
- Each county should forward the original copies of their first place winner to the State FCE Essay & Artwork Chairperson by March 1, 2008.

2. STATE LEVEL:

- State FCE Associations will judge the winning entries from the counties/parishes in their state. Retired teachers are a good source for judging the entries. **Please use judging guidelines and judging sheet included in this packet.** This will ensure that judges from all states will use the same criteria on all levels.
- State level judging begins March 1, 2008. State FCE Associations provide prizes and recognition to the state winners. State prizes should not exceed National Awards.
- Send the permission slip and the original copy of the first place winner from each state to the National FCE Essay & Artwork Chairperson postmarked by April 15, 2008.

3. NATIONAL LEVEL:

- The same judging criteria of creativity/content, grammar/punctuation/sentence structure, vocabulary, and presentation are used on all levels.
- The National 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners of the 2008 Essay & Artwork Contest will be announced at the National FCE Annual 2008 Conference.
- The National 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners receive Savings Bonds of \$500, \$250, and \$100, respectively.

- The National 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners' entries will be recognized on the National FCE website, with approval.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

1. Any 4th grade level student in a public, private, or home school is eligible.
2. Entries are to include a short story and a hand drawn picture. Use #2 lead pencil for both.
Do not color the picture.
 - Story and picture should reflect the characteristic RESPECT.
 - For drawings, use unlined, white paper approximately 8 ½ X 11.
 - For essays, use lined, white paper approximately 8 ½ X 11. The essay should be 50-100 words.
3. Students should write their name, his or her teacher's name, and the name of the school on the back of the picture and the bottom of the essay.

**Thank you for your time and effort in helping make this a successful
National Family & Community Education Project in Literacy!**

Dear Fourth Grade Teacher/Parent:

The National Family & Community Education members in _____(state/county) are sponsoring a nation-wide contest. The contest is based on the characteristic RESPECT, and we are asking students to write a short essay or short story about this trait.

The contest starts at the county level, where the local FCE group will judge the entries and recognize the winners from the local area. The first place entries will be forwarded to the state level. State FCE Associations will, in turn, judge and recognize winners for the state. First place entries will then be judged at the national level. The same judging criteria will be use in all states on all levels. These include: creativity, content, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, vocabulary, and presentation of the handwriting.

The National 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners receive Savings Bonds of \$500, \$250, and \$100 respectively.

Contest Guidelines are as follows:

1. Any 4th grade level student in a public, private, or home school is eligible.
2. Entries are to include a short story and a hand drawn picture. Use #2 lead pencil for both.
Do not color the picture.
 - Stories and pictures should reflect the characteristic **respect**.
 - For drawings, use unlined, white paper approximately 8 ½ X 11.
 - For essays, use lined, white paper approximately 8 ½ X 11. The essay should be 50-100 words.
3. Students should write their name, his or her teacher's name, and the name of the school on the back of the picture and at the bottom of the essay.

We hope you will join us in encouraging our students/children to strive for excellence in their writing and drawing skills and in the understanding of respect, an essential characteristic. More information may be obtained by contacting the FCE member below.

Sincerely,

Name: _____
Phone Number _____
Address: _____

JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

2008 Essay & Artwork Contest: RESPECT

Dear Judge:

On behalf of the National Association Family & Community Education, we thank you for being an important part of our literacy project. It would not be a success without the time you so graciously give. If at any time during the judging process you need assistance or have questions, please feel free to contact me.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

A judging sheet has been provided. The theme of the short story and hand drawn picture is **respect**. After scoring the entries, please attach the judging sheet to both the story and the drawing. First, second, and third place winners are to be selected. After judging and selecting the winners, please notify your local FCE representative to pick up the entries and judging sheets. **DO NOT NOTIFY THE WINNER.** The state or county will make an announcement and present the award.

THE CONTEST GUIDELINES:

1. Any 4th grade level student in a public, private, or home school is eligible.
2. Entries are to include a short story and a hand drawn picture. Use #2 lead pencil for both.
Do not color the picture.

Stories and pictures should reflect the characteristic **respect**.

For drawings, use unlined, white paper approximately 8 ½ X 11.

For essays, use lined, white paper approximately 8 ½ X 11. The essay should be 50 – 100 words.

3. Students should write their name, his or her teacher's name, and the name of the school on the back of the picture and at the bottom of the essay.

We ask that you do not write or mark on the entries as it may be judged at a higher level.

Again, we thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Phone Number _____

Address: _____

2008 ESSAY & ARTWORK JUDGING SHEET

THEME: RESPECT

Name of student _____

County _____

County Contest Chairman _____ phone _____

CONTENT OF ESSAY 35 pts _____

CREATIVITY 20 pts _____

CORRECTNESS 20 pts.
Grammar, Punctuation,
Spelling, and Sentence Structure _____

VOCABULARY 15 pts _____

PRESENTATION 15 pts
(Neatness of writing and drawing) _____

TOTAL SCORE: _____

Judged by _____ Date _____

PERMISSION SLIP

2008 Essay & Artwork Contest: RESPECT

I give _____ my permission to participate in the Essay & Artwork Contest sponsored by the National Association of Family & Community Education.

Parent's Signature

My entry is entitled, _____.
This work was completed on my own. I understand that the drawing and essay become property of National FCE Association.

Student's Signature

Complete Address:

Teacher's Name

Name of School

PRESS RELEASE:

2008 Essay & Artwork Contest: RESPECT

The _____ Family and Community Education members
State/county/parish
join the members across the nation in sponsoring an Essay & Artwork Contest for fourth grade students. This contest is held annually, and the theme this year is **respect**, one of the Six Pillars of Character. Students are to write an essay and create a hand drawn picture.

This FCE nationwide contest provides an opportunity for students to improve literacy skills and develop ethical values. The contest is open to any fourth grade-level student attending public, private, or home school.

The contest runs from September 1, 2007 through January 31, 2008. For complete information please contact _____ at _____.
FCE Contest Chairman phone number