

"Being Bilingual" Essay Contest

Important notice to all elementary school, middle school, and high school students who are learning in two languages:

The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) invites you to participate in its 31st Annual Nationwide Writing Contest for Bilingual Students.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS
OCTOBER 31, 2011**

TOPICS

Write an essay on an experience related to being bilingual, choosing a theme from the list below:

- Growing Up Bilingual
- Learning in Two Languages
- Why I Want to Be Bilingual
- Proud to Be Bilingual
- The Power of Bilingualism
- My Future Bilingual Career

CASH PRIZES

- Grades 3-5: \$1,000
- Grades 6-8: \$1,000
- Grades 9-11: \$1,000

TRAVEL AWARDS

Student winners, along with an adult, will receive an all-expense-paid trip to DALLAS, TX to attend the NABE Conference Awards Luncheon on February 16, 2012.

ELIGIBILITY

- Participation in the contest is limited to students who are enrolled in a bilingual classroom, or in a classroom with native language support.
- Participants must have a B average or better in academic grades and at least a 90% school attendance record.
- Previous winners are not eligible to participate

CRITERIA

Each essay will be judged on:

- (1) development of the theme – 10%;
- (2) originality – 20%;
- (3) content and clarity of expression – 45%; and
- (4) grammar and mechanics – 25%

RULES

Only entries that comply with the following rules will be considered:

Language: Essay must be written in the student's second language. For example, if the student is participating in a dual language program and English is her/his first language, the essay must be written in the second and not in English.

- **Subject:** All essays must address at least one of the themes listed under "TOPICS" above.
- **Length:** The number of words must be listed at the end of each essay. Lengths must be as follows:
 - Grades 3-5: 150-200 words
 - Grades 6-8: 250-350 words
 - Grades 9-11: 400-500 words
- **Format:** The essay must be handwritten neatly in ink or typed double-spaced.
- **Application:** An application form must be stapled to the essay, containing the name of the contestant, his/her native language; home address with ZIP code; telephone number with area code; grade level; name and address of

school; name of bilingual teacher and school principal; and name of

school district. Name should not appear on the essay. Applications require a teacher's signature verifying that applicants meet the contest eligibility criteria.

- **Copyright:** All essays become the property of NABE and will not be returned. NABE reserves the right to publish all essays.

JUDGING

A panel of judges the national winners in each grade category.

ENTRY SUBMISSION

Send essay with entry form to:

**NABE 2012
Nationwide Writing Contest
Attention: Dr. Isabella Piña-Hinojosa
P.O. Box 981
Denton, TX 76202
Email: hinojosai@cfbisd.edu**

Entries From Students From All Language Backgrounds Are Encouraged

Nationwide Writing Contest For Bilingual Students

"Being Bilingual" Essay Contest

Application Form

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Staple a copy of this form to each essay.
2. Names should not appear on the essay.
3. All application forms must be signed by the teacher.

Name of Contestant: _____

Grade: _____ Native

Language: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____

Name of School: _____

Name of Bilingual Teacher: _____

Name of Principal: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School Phone: (_____) _____

School Fax Number:(_____) _____

Name of School District: _____

I certify that this student meets all eligibility criteria.

Teacher Signature: _____

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