

What's Your Story?

"Being Bilingual" Essay Contest Sponsored by Weekly Reader

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 25th Annual Nationwide Writing Contest for Bilingual Students.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS OCTOBER 28, 2005

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: \$1,500
- Grades 9–11: \$2,500

TRAVEL AWARDS:

Student winners, along with their bilingual teacher and one parent or guardian, will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Phoenix, AZ, to attend the NABE Conference Awards Luncheon on January 20, 2006.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Participation in the contest is limited to students who are enrolled in a bilingual education program, in which academic instruction is provided in both English and another native language.
- Participants must have a B average or better in academic grades and at least a 90 percent school attendance record.
- Previous winners are not eligible to participate.

CRITERIA: Each essay will be judged on (1) development of the theme, (2) originality, (3) content and clarity of expression, and (4) grammar and mechanics.

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

- *Language:* All essays must be written in English. But winners should be prepared to present their essays in both English and their native language at an awards ceremony during the NABE 2006 conference in Phoenix, Arizona.
- *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: 350–500 words
- *Format:* The essay must be handwritten in ink or typed double-spaced.
- *Application:* An application form must be stapled to the essay, containing the name of the contestant; his or 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. Names should not appear on the essay. Applications require a teacher's signature verifying that applicants meet the contest eligibility criteria.

- *Copyright:* Essays become the property of NABE and Weekly Reader and will not be returned. NABE and Weekly Reader reserve the right to publish all essays.

JUDGING: A panel of judges selected by the Houston Independent School District will determine the national winners in each grade category.

Send essay to:

NABE 2006
Nationwide Writing Contest
ATTN: Jaime E. de la Isla
Houston Independent School District
3830 Richmond Avenue
Houston, TX 77027
Tel: (713) 892-6800

NABE 2006



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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