

“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 29th Annual Nationwide Writing Contest for Bilingual Students.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS NOVEMBER 7, 2009

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 First Place Winner
Grades 6-8: \$1,500 First Place Winner
Grades 9-12: \$2,000 First Place Winner

TRAVEL AWARDS

First Place student winners, along with their bilingual teacher and one parent or guardian, will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Denver, Colorado to attend the NABE Conference Awards Luncheon on Thursday, February 4, 2010.

ELIGIBILITY

- Participation in the contest is limited to students who are enrolled in a bilingual classroom, or in a classroom with native language support, or in a foreign language course.
- 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:** All essays must be written in the students second language. For example, if the students 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. But winners should be prepared to present their essays in both English and their native language at an awards ceremony during the NABE conference in Denver, Colorado.
- **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 9-12: 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.

ENTRY SUBMISSION

All entries must be submitted electronically to jare21@yahoo.com no later than November 7, 2009.

For further information contact:
Dr. José Agustín Ruiz-Escalante
jare21@yahoo.com
(956) 607-1955

Nationwide Writing Contest For Bilingual Students

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A P P L I C A T I O N F O R M

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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See reverse for rules and regulations.

