



12th Annual Essay Contest Cover Sheet

January 2024

(Please write clearly)

STUDENT NAME: _____

AGE: _____ **GRADE:** _____ **TEACHER'S INITIALS:** _____

STUDENT PERSONAL (non-school) EMAIL AND PHONE:

PARENT NAME, SIGNATURE & CONTACT INFO: (BOTH REQUIRED IF UNDER 18)

Printed Name Signature & Contact Telephone No.

This contest is open to all high school students from grades 9-12. First Place winner of the contest will receive \$1,000 cash. Second and Third Place winners will receive \$300 and \$100 cash, respectively. In addition, students may receive honorable mention and receive \$50 cash. Winners and two parents/guardians will be invited to a special awards luncheon where the top three essays and quotes from all honorable mention essays will be read. The winning essay is typically published verbatim in *The Fountain Hills Times*.

ESSAY GUIDELINES:

** Contest officially begins January 4 and ends February 5, 2024. ** The essay cannot exceed 750 words and must be typed in Times New Roman, font size #12 and single-spaced. ** The essay writer must answer ONE of the following prompts.

- ❖ Imagine you were about to receive \$1,000,000.00 but it came with a unique challenge – the entire amount must be spent on helping others. The catch: you cannot spend any of it on yourself and it's all about experiences or things that directly uplift and positively impact other people's lives. Keep the receipts! What would those receipts be for? How would you creatively spend \$1,000,000.00 to selflessly help others?
- ❖ Many people find art as a useful way to express themselves. Think of times you are most proud of yourself. If you could either paint a picture or write a song to reflect the best version of yourself, what would that picture look like or what type of song would it be? How would you describe your best self using a painted picture or song?
- ❖ How do you handle peer pressure and stay true to yourself? Share ways that you've used to resist negative influences, and how those experiences could help others your age.

HELPFUL HINTS: Reflect on what has been most meaningful to you during your life and how these moments have impacted who you are. Many of these memories will be very positive and others will be more difficult, but all of them can offer learning experiences that may be useful as you ponder your essay. These real-life stories will enhance your essay while offering a heart-felt reading experience to the judges.

2024 Essay Contest Rules

Please be sure to adhere to the following contest rules. In the past, many essays have lacked requested information. Be sure to use the spell and grammar-check tools on your computer. If these rules are not followed your essay may be subject to disqualification at the discretion of the judges.

The name or initials of the student are not to appear *anywhere* on the essay.

- ❖ All information requested on the Essay Contest Cover Sheet (Page ; name, age, grade, email/phone, *parent name, signature and contact information if under 18*) must be complete and stapled to the essay to be eligible for contest.
- ❖ Content must relate to the chosen essay topic and contain correct spelling and grammar. Keep in mind that the following 6 conventions of writing are important parts of the judging: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, fluency and conventions = grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.
- ❖ Entries must be turned in to your English teacher or counselor at Fountain Hills High School by end of school day on Monday, February 5, 2024.
- ❖ We do not encourage entries to be submitted by USPS mail. However, if you so choose your entry must be postmarked by February 1, 2024 to be eligible for the contest.

JUDGING: Essays will be blindly judged by community members per the essay contest rules. Any questions can be directed to your English teacher or to the Protect Our Youth Coalition director Tammy Bell at Director@fhcoalition.org.

Mailed entries should be sent to:

FH Coalition
c/o Tammy Bell/Dan Kuchan CPA
16921 E. Palisades Blvd. #103
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
www.FHCoalition.org