

September 9, 2009

To: Club Presidents

You will find below the 2010 District Essay Contest information. Please decide if your club is going to participate in the contest, and select a member to coordinate the contest on the local level. If your club chooses to participate, please forward this material to that person (if someone other than yourself) so that he/she can get the information to the school(s). Please send to me the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of your club's Essay Contest representative.

There should be six pages (including this page) when you print out this document. You will need to copy each page between page breaks and paste them to your word processing software such as Microsoft Word. This will save the district postage and the cost of printing out the guidelines for over 60 clubs.

All clubs participating in the Essay Contest will receive a banner patch. The First Place Essay Contest winners in each division will read their essays at the District Meeting on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at Hanceville, Alabama.

I would encourage your club to participate in this worthwhile project. It gets your Civitan club's name out into the schools and the community. If I can assist you in any way please give me a call or email me.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Ford

District Essay Contest Chairperson

1300 Tommy Lane

Athens, Alabama 35611

Phone: 256-771-7672

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2010 CIVITAN ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES

ALABAMA DISTRICT NORTH

Divisions:

Grades 6 - 8 Middle School (see Middle School requirements)

Grades 9 - 12 High School (see High School requirements)

District Awards:

First Place \$150 (One winner each division)

Second Place \$125 (One winner each division)

Third Place \$100 (One winner each division)

Each club participating in the contest will receive a banner patch.

These awards will be made at the district meeting in Hanceville, Alabama on Saturday, May 1, 2010.

Essay Theme:

In the Civitan Creed, we list the Civitan Belief that is the Golden Rule "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". Explain how this could be applied in your community, your school and your family.

Middle School Requirements:

Essay should be typed and double-spaced or hand printed in black ink.

Essay should be written in FIRST PERSON.

FORMAT:

TITLE PAGE should include the title of the essay, student's name, student's grade, student's school, the name of the sponsoring Civitan club, and the date (see attached sheet). **This is very important** be sure the student follows the Title Page requirements. Failure to do so means a good essay will be disqualified.

BODY OF ESSAY:

Five (5) Paragraphs

- Paragraph 1 - Introduction - using 3 - 5 complete sentences, state what the essay is about
- Paragraph 2 - using 3 - 5 complete sentences, state and discuss how the "Golden Rule" could be applied to your community.
- Paragraph 3 - using 3 - 5 complete sentences, state and discuss how the "Golden Rule" could be applied to your school.
- Paragraph 4 - using 3 - 5 complete sentences, state and discuss how the "Golden Rule" could be applied to your family.
- Paragraph 5 - Conclusion - using 3 - 5 complete sentences, summarize the essay restating the main points.

HIGH SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS:

Essay should be typed and double-spaced or hand printed in black ink.

Essay should be written in FIRST PERSON.

FORMAT:

TITLE PAGE should include the title of the essay, student's name, student's grade, student's school, the name of the sponsoring Civitan club, and the date (see attached sheet). **This is very important** be sure the student follows the Title Page requirements. Failure to do so means a good essay will be disqualified.

BODY OF ESSAY:

Five (5) Paragraphs

- Paragraph 1 - Introduction - using 5 - 7 complete sentences, state what the essay is about
- Paragraph 2 - using 5 - 7 complete sentences, state and discuss how the "Golden Rule" could be applied to your community.
- Paragraph 3 - using 5 - 7 complete sentences, state and discuss how the "Golden Rule" could be applied to your school.
- Paragraph 4 - using 5 - 7 complete sentences, state and discuss how the "Golden Rule" could be applied to your family.
- Paragraph 5 - Conclusion - using 5 - 7 complete sentences, summarize the essay restating the main points.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Neatness	5%
Following Directions	20%
Grammar and Mechanics	25%
Content	50%

Neatness:

The essay has a tidy appearance and is legible if handwritten.

Following Directions:

The title page contains specific requested information – no more and no less.

The BODY of the essay contains five (5) paragraphs with each paragraph containing the required number of sentences for the student’s division.

The essay is typed and double spaced in black ink or handwritten PRINTED in black ink.

The essay is written in first person. Meaning using “I” .

Grammar and Mechanics:

- Misspelled words
- Incorrect punctuation or capitalization
- Grammatically- some most frequent errors
 - Subject/verb agreement
 - Change of tense and person
 - Incorrect object pronouns
 - Sentence fragments
 - Pronoun/antecedent agreement
 - Run-on sentences
 - Lack of transitional words/phrases
 - Incorrect verb form

Content:

- Meets length requirements
- Has introduction and conclusion
- Develops theme well
- Has author control and sticks to subject
- Original
- Content is clear

DISTRICT LEVEL DEADLINE – MARCH 1, 2010

- Ø Entries **must be postmarked by this date** to be eligible for judging.
- Ø Judging should be done on the local club level before submitting essay (s) for district competition.
- Ø Submit ONLY the FIRST place winner per division.
- Ø Cover sheet containing the following information should be submitted with the winning essay (s):
 - § Name of Club submitting entries
 - § Name, address, phone number, e-mail of club essay chair or contact person
- Ø Entries should be submitted by sponsoring clubs not students

MAIL ENTRIES TO: Marilyn Ford
1300 Tommy Lane
Athens, Alabama 35611

Title of Essay

Student's Name

Grade

School's Name

Name of Sponsoring Civitan Club

Date