

Centennial Celebration

Celebrating 100 years of our Court's History

GUIDELINES FOR ESSAY CONTEST

To broaden students' knowledge of our court's history and knowledge of the court system; to encourage students in their writing; and to recognize publicly some of the best student writers in participating Miami-Dade County schools.

ELIGIBILITY:

Full-time 10th grade students in participating high schools.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

1. The essay must be the student's own work. Assistance may be provided in the form of suggestions from peers or adults, but the author must attest to the fact that the essay was written solely by him or her.
2. The essay may be no shorter than 500 and no longer than 1000 words.
3. The essay must be typed, double spaced, in type 12 font, and using only one side of paper. pages should be numbered consecutively and stapled together. the author's name must not be on the same page as the essay.
4. The essay should be given a title. The title should be on the top of the first page of the essay.
5. The author's name and school must be on a separate sheet of paper, along with the title of the essay (see attached form.) This paper should be clipped (not stapled) to the essay as a cover sheet. (It will be coded and removed before the essay is judged.)
6. Deadline: Essays must be received no later than noon on December 3, 2010.
7. The essays must respond to the following writing prompt:

What does justice mean to you? Describe an event or occurrence in which you have experienced justice or injustice and how this has affected your judgment or views on the effectiveness of our legal system. Your experience may stem from recorded events or your personal experience.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Following are the aspects of writing that will be considered by the judges when they make their decisions:

- Is the essay interesting to read?
- Does it show an understanding of the history or problem presented?
- Does it focus clearly on the topic?
- Is it well organized?
- Are major points fully developed or supported?
- Are standard conventions of spelling, usage, and grammar observed?

WINNERS AND AWARDS:

Three winners (first, second and third place) will be selected by a panel of judges and will be announced at an awards presentation on February 3, 2011 at _____ pm at _____.

Awards will be as follows:

Certificates of Participation for each entry

Commemorative t-shirt to each school's winning entry

\$100.00 savings bond to the third place winner

\$250.00 savings bond to the second place winner

\$500.00 savings bond and the opportunity to spend a day with a particular judge in our court system.

Address questions and submit entries to:

Beth Bloom, County Court Judge
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305-548-5400
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