



11th Annual Essay Contest Cover Sheet

January 2023

(Please write clearly)

STUDENT NAME: _____

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

STUDENT 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, 14 students will receive honorable mention and receive \$50 cash. Winners and two parents/guardians will be invited to a special awards luncheon on Thursday, March 9, 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 2 and ends February 3, 2023.
- ❖ 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:
 1. Think about your generation and the future. What concerns you most about your generation, and what do you believe can be done about those concerns? Or conversely, what stands out positively about your generation? Are you excited or nervous about the future? You can only choose one side to write about!
 2. When you think about social media, and its impact on your generation, what do you think your generation may be in the process of losing? Or what is it gaining? Pick a position and discuss if the benefits outweigh the costs or vice versa.
 3. Identify a fictional character from a book, movie, Anime or online show/series with whom you can connect and write about that connection and how that character has affected your life or the way you think.

(Contest Rules over →)

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.

2023 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 Page 1 (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 at Fountain Hills High School by end of school day on Friday, February 3, 2023.
- ❖ Entries received by mail must be postmarked by February 1, 2023 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 coalition director Mike Scharnow at mike.fhcoalition@gmail.com.

Mailed entries should be sent to:

FH Coalition
c/o Mike Scharnow/Dan Kuchan CPA
16921 E. Palisades Blvd. #103
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

www.FHCoalition.org