



13th Annual Essay Contest Cover Sheet ***January 2025***

(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) *I give permission for my child to participate in the Coalition Essay Contest. I release the contest organizers from any liability related to my child's participation, including injury, loss, or damage. I also consent to the use of my child's name and essay for promotional or educational purposes.*

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 December 20th and ends February 4, 2025. **** The essay cannot exceed 750 words and must be typed in Times New Roman, font size # 12 and single- spaced. ******

By entering this contest you and your parents consent to the use of your name and essay for promotional or educational purposes.

THE ESSAY WRITER MUST ANSWER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PROMPTS.

PROMPT OPTION 1:

Write a letter to your younger self sharing the most important lessons you've learned about making choices that align with your values. What advice would you give about staying true to yourself and avoiding paths that could lead to regret?

PROMPT OPTION 2:

Write a fictional story about a character who faces a difficult challenge or setback. How does the character face adversity and overcome their struggle? Include a theme or message for readers to take away from your story.

PROMPT OPTION 3:

Write an essay about the role model (personal, fictional, or historical), who has had the greatest impact on your life. Who has been your biggest influence, and how have they inspired you to make positive choices? Share specific examples from your life of how they have shaped who you are today.

ESSAY 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. Please be sure to submit your own work.

2025 ESSAY CONTEST RULES

Please be sure to adhere to the following contest rules. In the past, SOME essays have lacked requested information and were then eliminated from the contest. 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 either printed and stapled to the essay if submitting in-person or completed via this form if emailing your essay.

^ 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 submitted by email to info@fhcoalition.org or your advisory teacher, or counselor at school by end of school day on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

^ We do not encourage entries to be submitted by USPS mail. However, if you so choose your entry must be postmarked by January 30, 2025 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 or Advisory teachers or to the Protect Our Youth Coalition Programmers Shawn Uphoff & Elizabeth Watters at info@fhcoalition.org

Mailed entries should be sent to:

FH Coalition

c/o Dan Kuchan CPA

16921 E. Palisades Blvd. # 103

Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

www.FHCoalition.org