



# 2010 World Citizen Essay Contest

## ESSAY QUESTION:

Despite the ever increasing importance of understanding the histories, governments, and cultures of people from all over the world, many news organizations in recent years have had to cut their foreign correspondent staff. If you were a journalist on an international assignment, where would you like to go, what issue would you cover, and why?

## Contest Rules

### ESSAY LENGTH:

1,000 words or less, typed and double-spaced.

### DEADLINE:

**March 26, 2010 (postmarked).** All essays must be submitted in **4 copies** with an Essay Cover Form. Please mark envelope with **Attn: Essay Contest**.

### ELIGIBILITY:

Washington residents, 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

### AWARDS:

Awards will be granted in each of the three categories: grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

**First prize:** \$200 and recognition at a World Affairs Council event  
**Second prize:** \$100  
**Third prize:** \$50

### JUDGING:

A panel of judges will select the winning essays. They will use the criteria to evaluate essays according to four equally-weighted categories: content-part A, content-part B, voice, and conventions. Please see the judging criteria for detailed information.

**NOTE:** English language learners are encouraged to participate.

### JUDGING CRITERIA:

#### Content

Thorough research of a country and an issue is necessary to allow you to provide strong factual evidence to support your argument.

- Provide clear, real-world examples for every point you make.
- Provide rich details to illuminate every example.
- Ensure that all your evidence is accurate and relevant.
- Please cite sources within the text or at the end.

#### Voice

Your essay must provide your clear and original vision and you must provide the reader with the sense that you care deeply about the topics addressed.

- Use vivid images, evocative word choice, or other devices to inspire compassion in the reader.
- Use powerful language that expresses your ideas coherently, precisely, and persuasively.

#### Conventions

The mechanical correctness of the piece shows great care and attention to detail.

- Organize your essay with an introduction, a conclusion, and well-structured body paragraphs.
- Ensure that your essay is free of errors in spelling, punctuation, syntax, and grammar.

*This year, the World Affairs Council hosts the 12th annual World Citizen Essay Contest for Washington State students in third through twelfth grades. The goal of the World Citizen Essay Contest is to promote discussion among students, teachers, families, and community members about the ways that individuals can effect positive change in the global community. This coincides with the World Affairs Council's mission to promote dialogue and debate about international issues of critical importance to our region and world.*