

Phi Sigma Pi – Teach For America 2009-2010 Essay Contest

No purchase necessary to enter or win. *Subject to Official Rules.* The Phi Sigma Pi – Teach For America Essay Contest is open to students, who are currently enrolled full-time in Teach For America-sponsored schools (grades 1-12). Entries must be postmarked by Monday, December 14, 2009. Three 1st Place Winners will each be awarded a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond, Three 2nd Place Winners will each be awarded a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond.

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. The Phi Sigma Pi – Teach For America Essay Contest (the "Contest") is open to students, who are currently enrolled full-time in Teach For America-sponsored schools (grades 1-12). Students enrolled in schools where Teach For America has placed teaching corps members will be encouraged to submit entries. Contest is subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. All entrants who are under the age of eighteen (18) at the time of entry must have the permission of their parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) to enter. By entering the Contest, entrants and/or their parents or legal guardians (if such entrants are minors): (i) agree to accept and be bound by all terms of these Official Rules and Regulations ("Official Rules"), and (ii) agree that Pennsylvania courts have jurisdiction over any dispute or litigation arising from or relating to the Contest and that venue shall only be Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

2. HOW TO ENTER: To enter, participants must submit a completed essay based on the assigned theme, to be postmarked **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009.** All entries must be sent to: Phi Sigma Pi National Headquarters, 2119 Ambassador Circle, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603.

To be eligible, all entrants must provide the following documents via mail delivery only, and they must be postmarked no later than Monday, December 14, 2009:

- (i) Completed Official Entry Form (including the signature from the entrant's parent/guardian, if under 18, and teacher), and
- (ii) A legible printed essay or a typewritten, double-spaced essay with numbered pages of no more than One Thousand (1,000) words in length (the "Essay"), which answers the question: "Why is an education important?" (the "Topic"). All entries must be submitted in the name of an individual person and prizes will only be awarded to the person whose name is on each winning entry, regardless of other circumstances. Essays must be the entrants' original, previously unpublished work and all entries (including Essays) become the property of Sponsors, will not be acknowledged or returned and may be used by Sponsors in any manner or media in perpetuity without compensation. Essays must be written in English and Essays on any topic other than the chosen Topic shall be disqualified. Any plagiarism and/or failure to properly identify non-original material by an entrant will result in such entrant's disqualification. All words in the Essay except the title, bibliography and/or footnotes (if necessary) shall be counted towards the One Thousand (1,000) word limit. Essays that Sponsors and/or the judges deem, in their sole discretion, to be inappropriate or obscene will be void. Limit one (1) entry per student. Multiple entries from any student and/or duplicate entries will be deemed void.
- (iii) No mechanical reproductions, online entries, or facsimiles will be accepted by Sponsors and all such entries will be void. Sponsors are not responsible for misdirected, inaccurate, incomplete, lost, late, delayed, undelivered, damaged or illegible entries, and all such entries will be void. Sponsors are also not responsible for technical, hardware, or software failures of any kind, or other errors or problems which may occur in connection with or relating to the Contest, whether computer, network, technical, mechanical, typographical, printing, human or otherwise, including, without limitation, errors or problems which may occur in connection with the administration of the Contest, the processing or judging of entries, the announcement of the prizes, in any Contest-related materials or that may limit prize fulfillment or a participant's ability to enter the Contest. Sponsors reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to cancel, modify or prematurely conclude the Contest should any computer virus, malfunction, fraud, tampering, unauthorized intervention or other cause beyond their control corrupt the administration, security or proper operation of the Contest. If the Contest is cancelled, Sponsors may, in their sole discretion, judge all eligible entries received up to time of such action using the judging procedures outlined below to determine either the Semi-Finalists and/or Winners. False or deceptive entries or acts will render the entrant ineligible and Sponsors reserve the right to disqualify any entrant (and void his/her entry) who attempts to undermine the legitimate operation of the Contest by acts in a disruptive manner or violates these Official Rules. Any attempt by an individual to deliberately damage or undermine the legitimate operation of the Contest may be in violation of criminal and civil laws. Should such an attempt be made, Sponsors reserve the right to seek remedies and damages (including attorneys' fees) from any such person(s) to the fullest extent of the law, including criminal prosecution.

3. JUDGING: Up to ten (10) Semi-Finalists (the "Semi-Finalists") will be selected for each of the three categories (grades 1-4); (grades 5-8); (grades 9-12) by a panel of volunteer and staff members of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, Inc. by Wednesday, January 13, 2010 from all eligible entries received by the dates specified above, based equally upon the following criteria: originality, creativity, use of grammar and style, structure (how well thought out the Essay is) and relevance to the theme, "Why is an education important?" The decisions of the judges will be final and binding on all participants. The odds of being a Semi-Finalist will depend on the total number of eligible entries received during the open submission period. Sponsors reserve the right to choose fewer than ten (10) Semi-Finalists if, in their sole discretion, they do not receive a sufficient number of eligible and/or qualified entries. A final round of judging will take place by Friday, February 5, 2010 to determine the winners (the "Winners"), based upon the same criteria listed above. In the event of a tie in either round of judging, an additional "tie-breaker" judge will determine the Semi-Finalist(s) and/or Winner(s) from among all such tied entries using the judging criteria above. The decisions of the Sponsors and judges will be final and binding on all matters.

4. WINNER NOTIFICATION: Semi-finalists will be notified by Sponsors within approximately two (2) days of determination by the telephone number provided on his/her Official Entry Form. Semi-finalists (and/or their parents/legal guardians if such entrants are minors) may each be required to provide proof of identity, address and birth date, as well as execute and return an affidavit of eligibility, liability release and, except where prohibited by law, publicity release within three (3) days of date of issuance either via facsimile or US registered mail in order to claim the prize. If any potential Winner fails to submit the above documents, or if: (i) any prize notification is prevented due to inaccurate contact information, (ii) a potential Winner declines his or her prize or cannot travel on dates specified by Sponsors, or (iii) a potential Winner is determined to be ineligible for reason, such potential Winner will be disqualified and, at Sponsors' sole discretion, a runner-up will be notified.

5. PRIZES: 3 first-place winners (one per category) and 3 second-place winners (one per category) will each receive a U.S. Savings Bond and certificate of achievement. All semi-finalists will receive a certificate of merit acknowledging his/her entry. **VALUE OF ALL PRIZES (6 PRIZES):** Three (3) 1st Place Winners will each receive a U.S. Savings Bond of \$500 (amount at time of bond's maturity). Three (3) 2nd Place Winners will each receive a U.S. Savings Bond of \$200 (amount at time of bond's maturity).

6. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS: By entering this Contest, entrants (and/or their parent or legal guardian): (i) agree to be bound by the decisions of Sponsors and judges which are final and binding in all matters; (ii) grant Sponsors and their designees the right, unless prohibited by law, to use their names, school attended and city of residence, pictures and likenesses, without compensation, notification or permission, for the purpose of advertising and publicity in any and all media, now or after known, throughout the world in perpetuity; (iii) acknowledge and agree that Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, Inc. will own and administer 100% of the copyright in all Essays submitted, with the perpetual right to use such Essays. Sponsors will own the entries submitted (including the Essay and all rights embodied therein), and their designees may exploit, edit, modify, and distribute the entries and all elements of such entries, including, without limitation, the names and likenesses of any persons or locations embodied therein, in any and all media, now or hereafter known throughout the world in perpetuity without limitation at no additional notification or permission of entrants, their parents or legal guardians or any third party. In addition, entrants (or their parents or legal guardians if such entrant is a minor) forever waive and relinquish all so-called "moral rights ("droit moral") now or hereafter recognized. Sponsors expressly disclaim any responsibility and entrants (or their parents or legal guardians if such entrant is a minor) agree to release, indemnify and hold Sponsors harmless for liability, damages or claims for injury or loss to any person or property (including death) relating to, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, participation in this Contest, the acceptance and/or subsequent use or misuse of any of the prizes awarded, claims based on publicity rights, defamation or invasion of privacy. Sponsors further assume no liability either for the cancellation, modification or premature conclusion of the Contest for any reason or through the acts or defaults of any company or person providing any prize. All such losses or expenses must be borne by the affected participants, entrants and/or Winners.

7. OFFICIAL RULES AND WINNERS' NAMES REQUESTS: For a copy of these Official Rules, log onto www.phisigmapi.org. For a list of the Winners' Names, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the following address beginning Tuesday, August 10, 2010 to: Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, Inc., Attn: "Phi Sigma Pi – Teach For America Essay Contest" Winners' List, 2119 Ambassador Circle, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 17603. Requests received after Monday, September 13, 2010 will not be honored.

8. SPONSORS: This Contest is sponsored by Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, Inc, 2119 Ambassador Circle, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 17603.