



PENNSYLVANIA LITERARY FESTIVAL 2014 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST – SPONSORED BY THE FAYETTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AWARDS, AND JUDGING

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All K-12 students residing in Pennsylvania are eligible for the *Pennsylvania Literary Festival Student Essay Contest*.

The student essay (fictional or non-fictional) is based on a photograph taken and selected by the author.

Pennsylvania Literary Festival Essay Contest grade divisions include: Elementary (Grades K-4), Middle (Grades 5-8), and Secondary (Grade 9-12).

Entry forms must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

All essays and entry forms must be received by the Pennsylvania Literary Festival judging committee on or before the contest due date on **May 16, 2014**.

AWARDS

Three students in each grade division will receive a prize. In addition, one grand prize winner will be selected. Excerpts from the ten (10) winning essays will also be published in *The Pennsylvania Literary Festival* magazine and online at the Website PALitFest.com. They will also be displayed on more than one occasion in public libraries across the state.

Contest winners will be invited to a Pennsylvania Literary Festival Press Conference on May 22, 2014 and an awards program at the Uniontown Mall on May 31, 2014. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and family are welcome to attend both events. Although winners are encouraged to participate in the awards program, attendance is not mandatory to receive awards.

CONTEST REGULATIONS

All essays, based on a photograph chosen by the author, must comply with the following contest rules before submission:

- No literary form other than a one-page essay will be accepted.
- Photograph must be deemed appropriate for all audiences.
- Each essay must reflect the contestant's own writing and original thinking.
- Only one (1) essay may be submitted by each contestant.
- Each contestant must attach a completed Entry Form to his or her essay.
- The Entry Form must be signed by a parent or guardian as verification of authenticity.
- Essays must be typed.
- **The essay text must be 12-point font and single-spaced** and is limited to a MAXIMUM of one (1) page.



- Photograph must be taken and selected by the author, and it will be assumed by the contest officials that the author holds ownership of the image.
- The title of the essay, but NOT the author's name, MUST appear on the top of the essay.
- Send the essay, entry form, AND personal photograph to:
 Pennsylvania Literary Festival Student Essay Contest
 C/O Maria Fetock
 6421 National Pike
 Grindstone, PA 15442
- Entries must be postmarked on or before contest due date on May 16, 2014.
- Essays and photographs will NOT be returned to the author; they become property of the *Pennsylvania Literary Festival Student Essay* committee. The committee may reprint the essays, acknowledging the author and author's school. Winning essays and photographs will be displayed at the Pennsylvania Literary Festival and at local public libraries.

JUDGING *Pennsylvania Literary Festival Student Essay Committee will judge the essays using several categories. A sample rubric for scoring follows. Judging decisions are final; no discussion or objections will be entertained.*

	1 – Superior	2 – Above Standard	3 – Standard	4 – Below Standard
Topic and Argumentation	Highly original and creative	Original	Not original	Difficult to understand
Cohesiveness	Title, introduction, details and conclusion all fit together	Most essay elements (title, introduction, details and conclusion) fit together	At least two essay elements (title, introduction, details and conclusion) fit together	Essay elements seem random and unrelated
Word Choice	Precise word choice (active verbs/vivid descriptive language/sensory descriptions) or imagery used	Word choice is effective (active verbs/vivid descriptive language/sensory descriptions used)	Word choice includes some evidence of active verbs/vivid descriptive language/sensory descriptions	Words used incorrectly or overused words chosen
Voice	Author's "voice" shows writer's excitement and makes writing fun to read	Author's "voice" is appealing and well-suited to the topic	Author's "voice" fades at times, but is acceptable to topic	"Voice" is distant or not appropriate to topic
Relationship to Photo	Essay relates to the picture selected by the author	Essay is mostly connected to the selected photo	Essay has a loose connection to the photo	No connection to the selected photo
Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation	0-1 errors	2-4 errors	5-7 errors	8 or more errors



**PENNSYLVANIA LITERARY FESTIVAL
2014 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST – SPONSORED BY THE FAYETTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**

ESSAY TITLE: _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPH: _____

AUTHOR INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

PARENT /GUARDIAN INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

WAIVER: Being the parent or legal guardian of the student submitting this entry, I hereby release the essay and photograph entered to be used by the Pennsylvania Literary Festival Student Essay Contest committee for publishing purposes. The sole competition accepted for this release shall be whatever monetary awards that may be awarded as a result of this entry in the Pennsylvania Literary Festival Student Essay Contest.

WAIVER SIGNATURE: _____

*Essay will NOT be judged without appropriate signature.

Send **ESSAY, ENTRY FORM,** and **PHOTOGRAPH** to:
Pennsylvania Literary Festival Student Essay Contest
C/O Maria Fetock
6421 National Pike
Grindstone, PA 15442

Entries must be postmarked on or before contest due date on **May 16, 2014.**

ENTRY NUMBER _____