

ROTARY CLUBS OF DISTRICT 589
DRUG AWARENESS COMMITTEE

ESSAY CONTEST

1990

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE LOCAL ROTARY PROJECT CHAIRMAN

Dear Rotarian,

The Rotary District 589 Drug Awareness Committee welcomes you to an exciting, challenging and very worthwhile project: The 1990 Essay Contest. This project was implemented as a pilot project of the Space Center Rotary Club in 1989 and was carried out in the Clear Lake Intermediate School in the Clear Creek school district. It was originally designed by the Space Center Rotary Youth Committee in cooperation with school administrators and the teachers who actually used the program. We know that the project works! And, it works well! But, it does not work by itself. It only works when Rotary works. You are the key to making this enterprise work for your club and ultimately for the whole district.

District 589 has provided you with all the materials you need to carry out this project. There are study materials, instructions to the teachers, and instructions to the students. In this, the Rotary project is unique since other essay contests do not normally provide study materials from which to write an essay.

Since, you are new to this program, we have included in this packet a list of deadlines, instructions, and suggestions to help you have an effective and successful program.

Because this is also a district project, you must maintain communication with the Drug Awareness Chairman, Terry Hesson. And, it is imperative that you collect the winning essays from your school/school system in accordance with the deadlines.

We think that this is one of the most inspiring projects that District 589 has ever undertaken. It is a huge project! (As of this writing, over 28,000 students are committed to the contest!) It will therefore take tremendous co-operation and zeal to accomplish.

Thank you for your participation. Most of all, God bless you for your commitment in helping to eliminate drugs from our nine county area!

Sincerely,

Carson Stephens
Project Guidelines Chairman

EVENT

Interpretative Essay Contest

GROUP

Eighth (8th) Grade English Classes

GOAL

To bring about a greater awareness among students of possible consequences of drug use in their own lives and the society in which they live.

OBJECTIVES

1. To stimulate students to read and discuss with their peers a critical topic which currently impacts their lives and their community.
2. To provide students with an opportunity to write a short, original essay on this topic. This essay will be written from a personal perspective without attempting completeness.
3. To provide students with an opportunity to receive a formal course grade for their achievements and to provide special recognition and awards to students who achieve excellence in originality and depth of perception.

TOPIC

THERE WAS A NATION . . . by Paul Harvey

This is a 3 page article which appeared in the January 1989 issue of Reader's Digest. This article presents a capsule account of the downfall of China during the 19th Century. Emphasis is given to inner weaknesses of society, particularly related to the rampant use of drugs. A comparison is made to current conditions in America.

PROCEDURES

The English Department Chairperson at each school will coordinate this project under the direction of the appropriate school administrator.

Rotary Clubs will provide reprints of the Reader's Digest article and student instruction sheets to the Chairperson of the English Department prior to February 15, 1990.

The Chairperson will distribute these items to the English teachers who will be carrying out this project.

During regular class periods, the teachers will distribute the reprints and instruction sheets to all of their students. The article will be read and discussed in class with the teachers acting as facilitators. Following this, the students will outline the article and write a short essay with emphasis on one or more of the following items:

- Personal significance
- Significance to family
- Significance to school
- Significance to community
- Significance to nation

It is to be emphasized that the students' essays will not be mere restatements of the article, but will require thoughtful and careful discussion from a personal point of view.

Each teacher may grade his students' essays according to normal criteria relative to grammar, spelling, form, etc., and assign a corresponding grade which can become a part of each student's permanent record.

In addition, the teachers are to review the papers relative to the student's ability to understand and relate the impact of the article to his/her own life, the community and nation. Using this secondary criteria each teacher is to select the best essay from each class for submission to the Rotary.

The appropriate school representative will make all of these papers available to the Rotary no later than April 1, 1990.

Each paper should be identified with the following:

Teacher's Name
School
School District

Student's Name
Address
Telephone Number

SELECTION PROCESS

One essay from each school from among those submitted to Rotary will be selected as FIRST PRIZE WINNERS.

Each local Rotary Club will select one essay from among the FIRST PRIZE WINNERS for the schools in its area for submission to the Rotary District 589 Committee. A GRAND PRIZE WINNER will be selected from these papers. Three district-level FIRST PRIZE WINNERS will also be selected from among these papers.

AWARDS

The students and their parents whose papers were submitted to the District Committee will be invited to attend a banquet to be held May 12, 1990 at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas. A GRAND PRIZE WINNER will be announced at the banquet. The student selected and parents will win a trip to Disney World, Orlando, Florida.

Each district-level FIRST PLACE WINNER will receive an appropriate prize.

The FIRST PRIZE WINNER from each school will receive a prize as determined by the local Rotary Club.

Each class winner will receive a ribbon.

Each participant will receive a certificate from Rotary International.

PUBLICITY

Rotary will arrange for publicity regarding this event. There may be photographs and interviews of the winners. There may also be an opportunity to publish the Grand Prize Winner's essay as well as other essays submitted to the District Committee.

APPROACH

The local Rotary Club chairman should approach an appropriate school administrator for permission and assistance in establishing this project in the particular school or school district. Since this project is to be handled through the English departments, the English department chairperson is an invaluable contact person. However, one should begin with the highest level administrator within the school district before attempting any contact with a principal, assistant principal, or English department chairperson.

Give as much information as clearly as possible. Explain that this project has already been carried out successfully as a pilot project with the Clear Creek Independent School District. That project included 1400 students. The District Essay Contest is an expansion upon the pilot project and may involve as many as 50,000 eighth grade students in this nine county area.

DEADLINES

These deadlines must be imposed for the project to succeed:

January 27: Materials prepared for distribution to individual Rotary Clubs

February 15: Distribution of materials by local Rotary clubs to schools/school districts.

April 1: Winning papers from each teachers' classes returned to local Rotary Clubs.

(Individual Rotary Clubs must now select the winning essay(s) to be forward to district level.) Certificates given to all participating students from local Rotary Club.

April 9: Winning essay(s) forwarded from local Rotary Clubs to District Committee (Terry Hesson, Chairman).

April 15: District Committee distributes above winning essays to judges.

May 1: Judges' final decisions.

May 12: District Banquet and presentation of awards.

LOCALIZING THE PROJECT

The cost of the project for each club can be from \$0 to any amount desired depending upon how elaborate and how personalized the club wishes. For example, the individual club may desire to localize the contest by providing prizes to the winners of each school or school district before submitting these winners to the district level contest. A sample of how the Space Center Rotary Club handled the contest in 1989 is included at the end of this information packet. (This year, Space Center plans to expand to four schools with local Grand Prize winners from each school who will go to Space Camp: [\$900 each]. However, the program will be limited to eighth grade students only. One of the four will be submitted to the District level contest.)

CONTACT PERSONS

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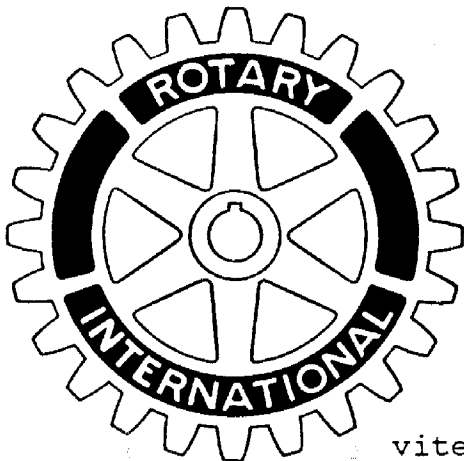
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ROTARY CLUB OF SPACE CENTER

INTERPRETIVE ESSAY CONTEST
1989

The Space Center Rotary Club of Houston invites all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade English students at Clear Lake Intermediate School to participate in an interpretive essay contest.

ELIGIBILITY

All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade English students at Clear Lake Intermediate School.

TOPIC

An original essay should be written based on the article by Paul Harvey, "There Was a Nation ..." This essay should include your point of view based on one or more of the following criteria:

- A. Personal significance
- B. Significance to your family
- C. Significance to your school
- D. Significance to your community
- E. Significance to our nation

GRADE

You will receive credit in your English class. The Space Center Rotary Club will judge all papers based on originality and content.

AWARDS

GRAND PRIZE: A plaque and an all expense paid trip to the U.S. Space Academy, Level I (Space Camp) in Alabama will be awarded for the top winning essay. This trip will be taken during the summer of 1989 and has a value of approximately \$900.

FIRST PLACE: A plaque, ribbon, and a summer pass to Astroworld will be awarded to six (6) first place winners, 2 each from the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. A boy and girl will be chosen in each grade.

All winners will be asked to attend a meeting of the Space Center Rotary Club of Houston.

All prizes will be awarded at the end of school Awards Assembly in June.

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