



Essay Contest

As part of the Local Government Awareness Program, local governments may want to sponsor an essay contest. The contest could be targeted to high school students but could also be open to all members of the community. Suggested essay topics include:



1. So you would like to be the Mayor / Chair or Chair of the Board of Education! What would you do if you were the Mayor or Chair of your community, or Chair of your Board of Education? What would be your goals and objectives? What would you change or do differently?
2. My community is the greatest because...

OR ANY OTHER TOPIC THAT MAY BE RELEVANT TO YOUR SPECIFIC COMMUNITY.

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES:

The contest is open to individuals in every community encompassing all age groups.

We suggest the following guidelines:

1. Essays should not be longer than 1000 words. Expectations will vary depending on the age of the entrant.
2. Essays should be submitted to city hall or other local government office for judging.
3. All essays should have the name, age, address, school (if applicable) and local government on the entry.
4. The contest is open to everyone in your community, but similar contests have been targeted to students at the secondary school level. Since there are no established categories, each entry should be judged on its own merit, based on the age of the contestant. In this way

exceptional achievement can be measured.

5. Judges should be representatives of the community; a politician, a newspaper reporter / editor, educator, school trustee or other prominent and qualified individuals in the community.
6. Judging should be based on the following criteria:
 - a. Effort
 - b. Creativity / Originality
 - c. Knowledge of and Perception of local government
 - d. Literary talent

Judges will also evaluate each entrant on its own merits, again taking into consideration the age of the participant.

7. If possible, all entrants should receive some form of recognition from the community. Winners should receive prizes deemed appropriate by the community. Communities may also consider publishing the winners in their local newspapers to further publicize LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARENESS WEEK in your community.