

TOPIC QUESTION

Identify an issue that you would like to learn more about as a member of a U.S. Foreign Service family currently living in NAME OF COUNTRY (the USA qualifies too). Explain why this issue is important to you, how you will learn more about it, and what you will do with the information. Consider how your Foreign Service lifestyle has stimulated your interest in this issue and your ability to understand it.

Open to all U.S. Foreign Service teens worldwide

High School Prizes:

1st: \$750

2nd: \$500

Middle School Prizes:

1st: \$250

2nd: \$100

How to Enter:

- Complete an entry form.
- Write an essay in English that answers the topic question.
- Do not exceed 1,000 words.
- Mail or **e-mail** your essay and entry form to:

FSYF/McGrath Essay Contest
c/o Kristen Gray
512 Meadow Lane, SW
Vienna, VA 22180
fsyf@fsyf.org

Please see entry form for complete contest rules and guidelines, including formatting requirements. Essays must be received by April 15, 2010.

Middle & High School 2010 Essay Contest

Sponsored by McGrath Real Estate Services
Property management in NoVa for the Foreign Service worldwide





2010 Essay Contest Entry Form

(Must be received by April 15, 2010)

Topic Question:

Identify an issue that you would like to learn more about as a member of a U.S. Foreign Service family currently living in NAME OF COUNTRY (the USA qualifies too). Explain why this issue is important to you, how you will learn more about it, and what you will do with the information. Consider how your Foreign Service lifestyle has stimulated your interest in this issue and your ability to understand it.

Background:

Struggling to identify an issue? Start by considering current events, the social sciences—archeology, communication studies, economics, history, international development, international relations, media studies, political science, social psychology, etc.—and the arts. What interests you? Do you wish you knew more about the Bollywood film industry in India? Ever wondered why people in Japan have the highest life expectancy? Curious about the history of the Hutu and Tutsi people in Rwanda and Burundi? Be creative! Remember that you are not expected to write a research paper. The judges are interested in what you want to learn and why—not what you already know.

Student Name: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Gender: Male Female

Essay Title: _____ Word Count: _____

Name of School: _____ Grade: _____

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s): _____

Current Post (City and Country): _____

Agency of Employment and Official USG Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Honor Statement: *This essay represents my own work. I am eligible to participate in the FSYP/McGrath Essay Contest. I understand that my essay will become the property of FSYP to use at its discretion, that it will not be returned to me, and that the judges' decisions are final.*

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____



2010 Essay Contest Entry Form

(Must be received by April 15, 2010)

Eligibility:

All U.S. Foreign Service middle and high school students are eligible to participate, except those whose parents are judges of the essay contest or FSYF Directors or employees. For the purposes of the contest, the term Foreign Service youth applies to dependents of U.S. citizens employed by U.S. foreign affairs agencies and eligible for overseas assignment.

Guidelines:

- Write your essay in English.
- Include a word count not to exceed 1,000 words, excluding a list of sources.
- Type your essay in 12-point Times New Roman font (or equivalent), double-space it, and include a 1" margin on all sides.
- Include a title, page numbers, and a list of any and all source material.
- Attach a completed and signed entry form to the front of your essay.
- Email or mail your essay to FSYF at the following address in time for it to arrive on or before April 15, 2010. Email is preferred and essays should be attached as electronic files in Microsoft Word format.

FSYF/McGrath Essay Contest
c/o Kristen Gray
512 Meadow Lane, SW
Vienna, VA 22180
fsyf@fsyf.org

Judging:

Judges will evaluate essays based on:

- Relevance: Does your essay answer the topic question?
- Persuasiveness: Did you persuade the judges that you are genuinely interested in the chosen issue?
- Style: Is your essay well written, well organized, well presented, and properly cited?

Sponsor:

Cash prizes are made possible by McGrath Real Estate Services, a property management firm founded and owned by a Foreign Service family. McGrath employees understand the special needs of home owners who are transferred abroad and want to feel good about their real estate choice. For more than 30 years, they have successfully represented Foreign Service Officers, World Bank executives and educated investors in every aspect of residential property management. www.McGrathRealEstate.com

Prizes:

Winners will receive cash prizes and be honored at the Youth Awards Ceremony in Washington, DC in July 2010.

High School:

1st Place: \$750
2nd Place: \$500

Middle School:

1st Place: \$250
2nd Place: \$100

Contact the FSYF at
fsyf@fsyf.org or 703-731-2960
for more information