

Announcement of 2014 High School Scholarship Essay Contest

Open to High School Seniors in Sacramento and Surrounding Counties

Total Scholarship Awards \$15,000

Sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility

Note: Deadline for entry is midnight on Wednesday, March 12, 2014

- **Essay Topic**

- Students may enter the 2014 PSR/Sacramento Scholarship Essay Contest by submitting an original essay of 500 words or fewer describing their thoughts about the quotation, "Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world," from the late Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Nelson Mandela.

- **Contest Eligibility and Rules**

- Contestants must be high school seniors attending school in Sacramento County or in one of the following surrounding counties: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, San Joaquin, Solano, Sutter, Yolo, or Yuba.
- Contestants must be in good academic standing and on track to graduate in 2014. (Students who entered high school on track to graduate in 2014, but who graduated earlier are also eligible.)
- Contestants are encouraged to discuss the essay topic with teachers, parents, friends, and other mentors, but each contestant must write the essay himself or herself, in his or her own words.
- Essays may either be sent electronically via the PSR/Sacramento website at www.sacpsr.org (preferred method), by email to essaycontest@sacpsr.org, or by U.S. mail to PSR/Sacramento, 10 Dumfries Court, Sacramento, CA, 95831. Essays sent by email should be included either as an attachment in Microsoft Word format or in the text of the email. Essays sent by U.S. mail must be typewritten and single-spaced. Essays may include a title and footnotes, but these elements are not required. Include a word count with the essay, excluding any title or footnotes, which do not count toward the 500 word limit.
- All essays must be accompanied by an entry form which includes the contestant's name, address, phone number, email address, and high school; the name of a parent or guardian; a statement signed by the contestant documenting that the essay being submitted is the original work of the contestant; a statement signed by the parent or guardian indicating that the parent or guardian approves of the contestant's participation in the scholarship essay contest; and a statement by a school official confirming that the contestant is a student in good standing, on track for graduation from the 12th

grade in 2014. A blank entry form is available on the PSR/Sacramento website and is also appended to this announcement. The completed entry form may be scanned into PDF format and sent by email to essaycontest@sacpsr.org or it may be sent by U.S. mail to: PSR/Sacramento, 10 Dumfries Court, Sacramento, CA, 95831.

- Deadline for essay and entry form submission is midnight on Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

- **Selection of Scholarship Winners**
 - The Steering Committee of the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR/Sacramento) will establish a panel of PSR members and other qualified individuals in the community to judge essays based on originality, clarity, cohesiveness, and overall impact. The panel will select 10 finalists and two alternates, to be announced by Monday, April 14, 2014.
 - The top 10 finalists will be invited to present their essays orally at a dinner open to the public on the evening of Sunday, April 27, at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Boulevard, in Sacramento. Dinner will begin at 6 PM, and essay presentations will follow.
 - Finalists must participate in the April 27 finals dinner presentation to be eligible for scholarship awards. Finalists must confirm by Sunday, April 20 that they will be participating in the April 27 finals event, or an alternate finalist may be assigned in their place.
 - A panel of judges selected from the community will rate the essay presentations at the dinner and will ask one question of each finalist concerning his or her presentation. Finalists will be given up to three minutes to respond to the question. Following all presentations and questions, judges will choose first, second, and third place winners, based on the combined quality of the essay presentations and the responses to the judges' questions.

- **Contest Prizes (Total \$15,000)**
 - First place winner will receive a \$3,000 scholarship; second place a \$2,500 scholarship; and third place a \$2,000 scholarship
 - The other seven contestants participating in the April 27, 2014 final judging event will each receive \$1,000 scholarships.
 - If all of the top 10 finalists participate in the finals dinner presentation, the two alternate finalists will both receive \$250 scholarships. If one or more of the top 10 finalists cannot be present at the finals dinner and an alternate finalist takes his or her place, the alternate finalist will instead receive a minimum of a \$1,000 scholarship and will be eligible for the first, second, or third place awards.
 - Scholarship money may be applied toward any education-related expenses upon matriculation at an accredited college or university. Essay contest winners may also apply awards toward tuition for certain other post-high school educational programs, including trade schools, pending review and approval of the proposed curriculum by the PSR/Sacramento steering committee.

Summary of Essay Contest Timeline

- Deadline for entering contest is midnight on Wednesday, March 12, 2014.
- Announcement of finalists will be made by Monday, April 14, 2014.
- Deadline for finalists to confirm that they will be able to participate in essay contest finals dinner is Sunday, April 20, 2014.
- Essay contest finals will be on Sunday, April 27, beginning at 6 PM.

For additional information or questions, email essaycontest@sacpsr.org or call (916) 955-6333.

Optional Section - Media Release

Permission is given to release written essay to news media

_____/_____
contestant signature parent or guardian signature

Permission is given to record and broadcast oral presentation and to be interviewed by radio and television media if contestant is selected as a finalist:

_____/_____
contestant signature parent or guardian signature

Optional Section – Additional Information

(Note: completion, or lack of completion, of this section will not affect the contestant's chances of being chosen as a finalist in the scholarship/essay contest)

How did you learn about the essay contest?

___ High School teacher/counselor/administrator

___ Radio Announcement (Please indicate the station: _____)

___ News Paper Ad (Please indicate which paper: _____).

___ Other (please describe)