

FLORIDA EDUCATION FUND LAWS OF LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

THEME "Laws of Life"

PURPOSE. The *Laws of Life* are core values and ideals by which we live. Honesty, perseverance, and the Golden Rule all are examples of these universal "laws" that transcend religions, cultures, and national borders. The *Laws of Life* Essay Contest offers a young person the opportunity to think about and communicate the principles that guide his or her life. As a participant writes his or her essay, the participant must select the quotation below that expresses a key value and/or ideal by which he or she lives and explain why the chosen value/ideal is important to the way he or she lives his or her life by discussing experiences, lessons learned, and people who have served as living examples of the chosen value/ideal.

1. *In a world filled with hate, we must still dare to hope. In a world filled with anger, we must still dare to comfort. In a world filled with despair, we must still dare to dream. And in a world filled with distrust, we must still dare to believe.* --Michael Jackson
2. *The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.* --Martin Luther King
3. *Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.* --Nelson Mandela
4. *You can't let your failures define you. You have to let your failures teach you.* -President of the United States of America Barack Obama
5. *Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.* --Malcolm X
6. *Education must not only simply teach--it must teach life.* --W. E. B. Dubois
7. *Nothing ever comes to one that is worth having, except as a result of hard work.* --Booker T. Washington

ELIGIBILITY. Members of the Centers of Excellence Program (i.e., National Achievers, Believers) in grades 4 through 12 may participate. There are three divisions: Grades 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

REQUIREMENTS. Essays of 100-300 words **must** be submitted to the Center Director no later than 4:00 p.m., Monday, February 13, 2012. Attach this application to the essay.

Center Directors will submit all essays to the Florida Education Fund by February 21, 2012, and will be notified of the essay winners for each division by March 15, 2012. The winners will be expected to read a portion of their winning essays (no more than one minute) at the Florida National Achievers Society Summit to be held March 24, 2012, in central Florida.

JUDGING. The following criteria will be used for judging an essay: Content = 5 points; Presentation = 3 points; and Grammar and Spelling = 2 points. Judges will be secured who understand the writing levels of the essay participants, i.e., judges who understand the writing skills taught for the FCAT test and defined by the Sunshine State Standards: an elementary professional for 4th-5th graders, a middle school professional for 6th-8th graders, and a high school professional for 9th-12th graders.

APPLICATION FORM (PLEASE PRINT)

Director's use only: ASSIGNED NUMBER _____

Student's Name	Age	Grade	
Home Address	City	State	Zip
Parent or Guardian	Home Phone		
School	Center of Excellence		

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JUDGE'S FORM

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ELIGIBILITY: A judge must be someone who appreciates the ideals of the *Laws of Life* Essay Contest. A judge **cannot** be a parent or immediate family member of a current contest participant.

CRITERIA: Students must be able to demonstrate the writing process and communicate ideas and information effectively. The following criteria should be met: **Content** - the student was able to explain his or her *law of life*. **Presentation** - the essay is clearly written and easy to read. **Grammar/Spelling** - the essay was written with few grammatical and spelling errors.

SCORING: Essays will be scored in three categories on a scale from 1 - 5. The highest overall score for an essay is 10 points.

ESSAY ID NUMBER	STUDENT'S GRADE	CONTENT (maximum pts. = 5)	PRESENTATION (maximum pts. = 3)	GRAMMAR/SPELLING (maximum pts. = 2)	TOTAL SCORE

Judge's Signature

Date

Center of Excellence

SUBMIT THIS FORM WITH THE ESSAYS TO THE CENTER DIRECTOR.