2012 World of Nations Essay Contest
"How would you describe the United States of America in your first email to a pen pal from another country?"

Teachers, we are asking your students to use their imaginations to tell us how they would describe the U.S. (i.e. culture, customs, technology, foods, landmarks, traditions, holidays, etc.) in their first email to a pen pal. We look forward to reading your responses!

Guidelines

- The contest is separated into two categories:
  - Elementary School (first through fifth grade)
  - Middle School (sixth through eighth grade)
- Essays should be 150 words in length.
- Essays must be tasteful and non-offensive. Essays can't be negative of any ethnic, racial, gender, religious, professional, or age group.
- Students can enter one original essay.
- No plagiarism. By submitting an essay, the student is stating the essay is their original work. Teachers also need to initial each attached form verifying it is the student's original work.

Submission

- Essays must be submitted by a teacher or parent if the student is home schooled.
- The student's name, school or grade should not appear on the essay but be listed on the form below and attached to the essay.
- The form below must accompany each essay submitted.
- Essays can be mailed or faxed to the City of Jacksonville Office of Special Events.
  - Mail Address: City of Jacksonville Office of Special Events
    Attn: Tanisha Brown
    117 West Duval Street, Suite 280
    Jacksonville, Florida 32202
  - Fax Number: (904) 630-3693

Timeline

- Deadline for submission is 5 p.m. on April 10.
- Winners will be notified the week of April 16.

Judging Criteria

- Judging criteria will be based on creativity, grammar and how well the essay answers the question "How would you describe the United States of America in your first email to a pen pal from another country?"

Awards

Each category will have a first place winner and runner up.
First Place

- Reads his or her essay during the Parade of Flags on Saturday, May 5 at the World of Nations Celebration.
- Essay is showcased on event website.
- Essay is featured in the World of Nations Celebration commemorative program.
- Essay is published in an upcoming edition of Arbus Magazine.
- Receives four complimentary tickets to the World of Nations Celebration.

Runner Up

- Helps lead the Parade of Flags on Saturday, May 5 at the World of Nations Celebration.
- Name is mentioned as runner up on event website.
- Name is mentioned in the World of Nations Celebration commemorative program.
- Receives four complimentary tickets to the World of Nations Celebration.

2012 World of Nations Essay Contest

Name of Student_____

School_____Grade_____

Name of Teacher_____

Phone number of Teacher_____E-mail_____

Teacher Initials to verify the essay is the student's original work_____

Name of Parent/Guardian_____

Phone number of Parent/Guardian_____E-mail_____

I give permission to the City of Jacksonville Office of Special Events to use my child's name, likeness and essay for promotional purposes related to the 2011 World of Nations Celebration and 2011 World of Nations Celebration Essay Contest.

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Signature of Parent/Guardian Date