

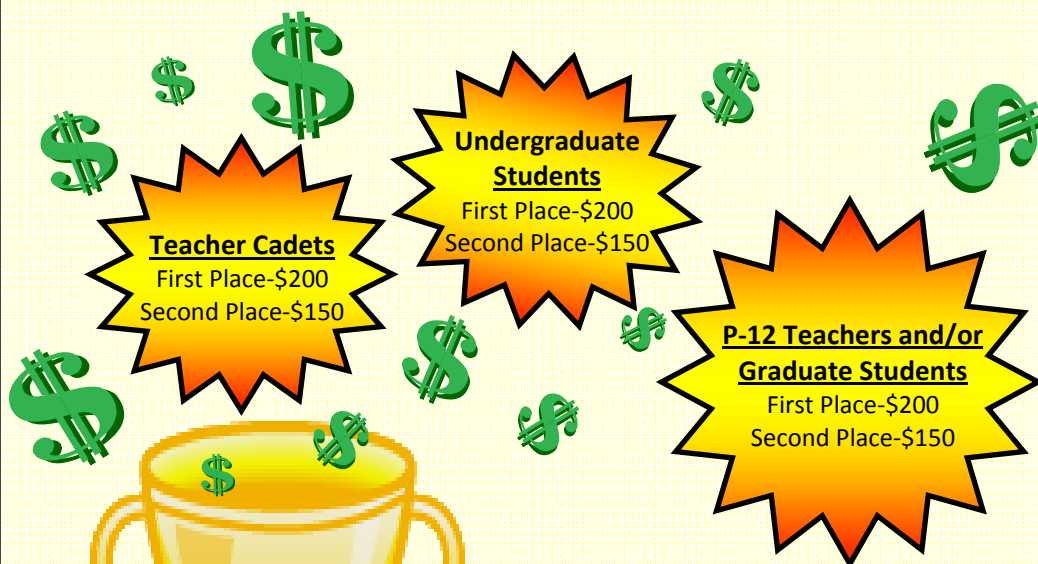
Essay Contest



OPEN TO ALL FMU STUDENTS,
TEACHER CADETS AND P-12 TEACHERS
IN COE PARTNER DISTRICTS!

TOPIC:

**“IMPORTANT WORK: TEACHING
CHILDREN OF POVERTY”**



Prizes!

Entry Deadline:

March 22, 2010

For Official Contest Details
email jmwayne@fmarion.edu



COE Essay Contest Spring 2010

Purpose

This contest is sponsored by the Francis Marion University Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty. It is designed to give Teacher Cadets, current undergraduate and graduate students at Francis Marion University, as well as in-service P-12 teachers in COE Partner Districts, the opportunity to write about the challenges of working with children of poverty. The topic selected each semester is intended to encourage participants to develop their own views about a central idea while concurrently substantiating these views with references to current research. In addition to the opportunity for written expression, participants have the opportunity to win cash awards.

Awards

Cash awards will be given to the authors of the six best essays that meet all contest criteria and receive the highest scores on the scoring rubric.

P-12 Teachers and/or Graduate Students

First Place - \$200
Second Place - \$150

Undergraduate Students

First Place - \$200
Second Place - \$150

Teacher Cadets

First Place - \$200
Second Place - \$150

Announcement

During the COE Semester Kick-Off meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2009, at 3:30 in Lowrimore Auditorium, the essay contest will be announced to teacher candidates. COE Partner Districts and FMU Faculty will receive the announcement via email.

Official Topic:

“Important Work: Teaching Children of Poverty”

The purpose of the topic is to address the reasons that you, P-12 teachers, graduate students, undergraduate students, and teacher cadets, think that teaching children of poverty is important work. Special consideration should be given to concepts relating to the needs and abilities of children of poverty. You should articulate your views about poverty, identify the challenges, and explain your interest in teaching children of poverty. Support your ideas with findings from at least two current research articles.

Section I – General Rules

- A contestant must compose an original essay. Webster’s dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretive literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.
- Essays must be written by one author. Essays with co-authors will not be considered.
- A contestant may not confer or collaborate with others regarding the content of their essay.
- A contestant may use the FMU Writing Center for grammar, punctuation, and other writing style assistance.
- The FMU Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment or notification to the author.

Section II – Qualifications for Contestants

- The Francis Marion University Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty Essay Contest is open to all undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled at FMU. FMU Teacher Cadets and P-12 teachers from COE Partner Districts are also invited to compete.
- Contestants are eligible for the essay contest every year.
- Previous winners are eligible to participate.

Section III – Title Page

- Essays must have a proper title page to be accepted (see specific instructions below).
- Each essay must include a title page, not considered text, with the following information:
 - Title
 - Author's full name (*The author's identifying information must not occur on any other page of the essay.*)
 - Status (P-12 Teacher, Graduate or Undergraduate Student, or Teacher Cadet)
 - Mailing address
 - Phone number
 - E-mail address
 - Word Count
- The title of the essay must also appear on the top of the first page of the essay text.

Section IV – Contest Rules

- The essay must be written in English.
- Only one (1) essay may be submitted by each contestant.
- Participants are responsible for complying with all contest rules.
- Participants must write on the official topic.
- No literary form other than an essay will be accepted.
- Each essay must be based on your ideas and/or personal experiences, and supported by current research. Essays must contain a minimum of two current research references. All references and any quotations and copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly, using either MLA or APA format. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
- Each essay must reflect the contestant's own writing and original thinking.
- Essays must be typewritten and double-spaced, using 12 point Arial font, and one inch margins.
- Essays must contain at least 800 words but no more than 1600 words. The Microsoft "word count" tool should be used for calculating number of words. Word count should not include the title or reference pages.
- Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with the first page of the essay (not the title page). The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.
- Participants must submit one printed copy and one electronic copy.
- The paper copy must be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Document covers should NOT be used.
- Each essay must be submitted by email to COE@fmarion.edu as a Microsoft WORD attachment. Participants must type COE Essay Contest and her/his name in the subject line of the email.
- One paper copy and one electronic copy must be submitted and received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2010. Paper copies should be hand-delivered or mailed to:

**Brenda Hill-Center of Excellence
520 Francis Marion Rd
Florence, SC 29506**
- The decision of the contest judges is final, and no higher appeals will be recognized.

Section V – Judging and Timing

- Judging will be completed by a panel of qualified judges that may include FMU Faculty, Center of Excellence staff and professional educators from the Pee Dee region.
- In an effort to conceal the identity of each participant, each entry will be assigned a number by a COE contest staff person. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and first page of the essay. The title page will then be detached and retained by a COE essay contest staff person. The judges will be given the essay bearing only the assigned number.
- Judges will not discuss or compare essays being judged.
- **Both** the paper copy and the electronic copy must be submitted and received by Mrs. Brenda Hill, Essay Contest Contact person, at the Center of Excellence located in the Pee Dee Education Center on the campus of Francis Marion University **no later than 5:00 P.M** on Monday, March 22, 2010.

Essay Contest Chairperson:

Dr. Janis McWayne

Address:
Francis Marion University
PO Box 100547
Florence, SC 29501

Email: jmccwayne@fmarion.edu
Phone: 843.661.1467

Section VI – Scoring of Essays

Essays will be scored in six areas: **Comprehension** **Connection to Research** **Organization**
Development **Creativity** **Writing**

Evidence of:

- **Comprehension**
The essay reflects a thorough comprehension of the essay topic
- **Connection to Research**
The contestant's thoughts are woven within the current research findings to proficiently elucidate the connections
- **Organization**
*Argument follows a logical and easily understood progression
Corroborating evidence supports the essay's main points*
- **Development**
Concept clearly developed through critical analysis
- **Creativity**
*Use of diverse resources, including interviews
Creative angle on the issue*
- **Writing**
Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and concise language.

Essay Contest Rubric

Contestant Essay Number _____

Criteria	5=Excellent	4=Accomplished	3=Developing	2=Marginal	1-0 Not Yet
Comprehension					
Connection to Research					
Organization					
Development					
Creativity					
Writing					

Total Score: _____ / 30

Note: To be considered for a first or second place award, a contestant's essay must score a minimum of 24 points.