



**FREA**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Essay Contest**  
**TOOL KIT**



FLORIDA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION  
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[info@frea.org](mailto:info@frea.org) 727-577-6400 [www.frea.org](http://www.frea.org)

## Unit Guidelines for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest

1. Obtain approval of the Director of Elementary Education (if required) or contact 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher's in your school district
2. Choose **one** winner from your unit and submit the winner's name and essay to your District Volunteer Services Chairman by **March 15**
3. The District Volunteer Services Chairman will choose one winner from the district and submit the essay to the State Volunteer Services Chairman by **April 1**
4. One winning essay will be chosen at the state level. A cash prize of a \$150 and a certificate will be awarded to the STATE winner. Second and third place winners will receive \$100 and \$50, respectively. Local units may choose to award local funds to their unit winner.
5. The cover letter to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher should express your appreciation for his/her participation. It should also have your unit name and a contact person in your unit. Posters are also available from the FREA office.
6. Let's use this opportunity to recognize academic achievement and as an opportunity to let the public know about your unit and the Florida Retired Educators Association

# FLORIDA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest Suggested JUDGING CRITERIA for Local Units

*This form will be used for judging essay submission at State Level*

Essay#	Name of Judge
1. Maximum of 500 words	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> No</span>
2. Subject matter: experience with grandparent(s) or grandparent figure(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> No</span>
3. Student generated (adults may proof read/type only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> No</span>
4. Detachable cover listing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> No</span>
A. Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> No</span>
B. Name of Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> No</span>
C. Name of Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> No</span>
D. Name of School	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> No</span>
E. Name of County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> No</span>
F. # of words in essay	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> No</span>

***A “No” to any of the above will disqualify the entry***

<u>Judging Criteria</u>	
1. Originality	(possible 40 pts)
2. Adherence to assigned topic	(possible 20 pts)
3. Concrete ideas	(possible 20 pts)
4. Correctness of grammar, spelling, punctuation	(possible 20 pts)
<b>Total Points</b> (possible 100 pts)	



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Dear 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher,

The Florida Retired Educators Association is again sponsoring our Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest and would welcome your participation. We ask the students to describe an *experience or experiences with a grandparent(s) or grandparent figure(s)*. It is our hope that by contacting you early in the school year, you will be able to work our contest into your busy schedule and encourage your students to remember a special time in their life. The contest rules are attached and your local contact is listed below.

Thank you for your consideration and happy writing.

Local FREA Unit
Local FREA Unit Contact
Phone #
Email
<b>Essays are due to the above contact by</b>



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## FREA 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest

### To 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers

1. Essay should be a maximum of 500 words, excluding a, an, and the.
2. The student must describe an experience or experiences with a grandparent(s) or grandparent figure(s).
3. The essay must reflect the ideas, vocabulary, and efforts of the student acting alone.
4. Adult participation is limited to proofreading and typing the final product. In—class writing is suggested.
5. Essay **must** have a detachable cover listing items in this order: 1. Title, 2. Name of student, 3. Name of teacher, 4. Name of school, 5. Name of county, 6. Number of words in essay.
6. Essay will be judged on originality, adherence to the assigned topic, concrete ideas, and correctness of grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
7. One essay, from those submitted by all 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes in each of the local school districts participating, will be selected and sent on to the FREA District Chairman. The District Chairmen (10 Districts) will each select one winning essay to be sent on to the State Volunteer Services Chairman to be judged by the *FREA State 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Judging Committee*. A first, second and third place winner will be selected. Units will be notified and the State Winners will receive \$150, \$100 and \$50 respectively. The 1<sup>st</sup> Place Essay will be read at our Annual FREA Convention.

Pease Note: See attachment for judging criteria.

# Margaret Poppell Literacy For Life Program



*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."*

*~Anne Frank*

In 1986 Margaret Poppell may have retired from teaching, but she never retired from improving the lives of others through her love of literacy. That tradition continues with the creation of the Margaret Poppell Literacy For Life Program. This ongoing program is designed to supply new books to grades K/5 in Florida school districts working with each unit's local schools. This is a fitting tribute for a woman who has dedicated her life to spreading the gift of literacy to those young and old. The bookplate will be used by the units to identify them and the FREA as the donors.

*Local Units may use this bookplate (available from FREA and personalized to your unit) to encourage Literacy in their communities and expand upon the program to meet the needs of their communities.*

