



FREA
5th Grade
Essay Contest
TOOL KIT



FLORIDA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
8950 9th Street N
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
info@frea.org 727-577-6400 www.frea.org

Unit Guidelines for 5th Grade Essay Contest

1. Obtain approval of the Director of Elementary Education (if required) or contact 5th grade teachers 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 **February 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 **March 1**
4. One winning essay will be chosen at the state level by **April 1**. A cash prize of \$150 will be awarded to the STATE first place winner. Second and third place winners will receive \$100 and \$50, respectively. They will also each receive a customized poster of their essay. Local units may choose to award **local** funds to their unit winner.
5. The cover letter to the 5th 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

FREA Fifth Grade Essay Contest Flow Chart

September or October: Send or Deliver Fifth Grade Essay Contest Information to your District/Public School Fifth Grade Teachers. Include YOUR Unit's deadline (before January 30), and YOUR contact information.

Before February 15: Assemble a committee to read/score the essays that come to your Unit. Choose the best essay to represent your Unit. Send the following to your District Volunteer Services Chair:

1. Cover page
2. Chosen Essay
3. Child's photo,
4. Current home address
5. Permission to Publish form

IF your District does NOT have a Volunteer Services Chair, send the above to: the State Volunteer Services Chair.

By March 1: The District Volunteer Services Chairs (or if no District VS Chair, State VS Chair) assembles a committee to choose the best essay in their District. Each District sends to the FREA State Volunteer Services Chair:

1. Cover page
2. Chosen Essay
3. Child's photo,
4. Current home address
5. Permission to Publish form

District Chairs will immediately notify their Units of the essay chosen to represent their District.

By March 15:

1. The State VS Chair will assemble a committee to choose the First, Second, and Third place winning essays for the state.
2. The winning essays will be sent to the FREA Office.
3. The State VS Chair will notify all District and Unit VS Chairs of the three winning essays.
4. Winning students will be invited to attend the FREA Convention in May to receive their award.
5. The first place student will be invited to read their winning essay at Convention.

FLORIDA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

5th 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Subject matter: Positive experience with grandparent(s) older person in their life | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Student generated (adults may proof read/type only) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. Detachable cover listing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| A. Title | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| B. Name of Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| C. Name of Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| D. Name of School | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| E. Name of County | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| F. # of words in essay | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

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

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



FLORIDA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
info@frea.org 727-577-6400 www.frea.org

Dear 5th Grade Teacher,

The Florida Retired Educators Association is again sponsoring our **Annual 5th Grade Essay Contest** and would welcome your participation. We ask the students to describe an *experience or experiences with a grandparent or an older adult who has impacted their life in a positive way.*

We hope 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 |
| |



FREA 5th Grade Essay Contest

To 5th Grade Teachers

1. Deadline is January 30.
2. Essay should be a maximum of 500 words, excluding a, an, and the.
3. The student must describe an *experience or experiences with a grandparent or an older adult who has impacted their life in a positive way.*
4. The essay must reflect the ideas, vocabulary, and efforts of the student acting alone.
5. Adult participation is limited to proofreading and typing the final product. In-class writing is suggested.
6. Essay **must** have a detachable cover page listing items in this order:
 - Title
 - Name of student
 - Name of teacher
 - Name of school
 - Name of county
 - Number of words in essay
7. Essay will be judged on originality, adherence to the assigned topic, concrete ideas, and correctness of grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
8. One essay, from those submitted by all 5th 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 5th Grade Essay Judging Committee.
9. A first, second and third place State winner will be selected by April 1. Units will be notified, and the **State Winners will receive \$150, \$100 and \$50 respectively.** The three State winners are invited to attend the FREA State Convention at their own cost. The 1st Place Essay will be read at our Annual FREA Convention. The three State winners each receive a full color poster of their essay, worthy of framing, with their check.



Florida Retired Educators Association Permission to Publish

Date:

Student Name:

I/We,

Parent of the student named above, give permission for his/her

- Photo
- 5th Grade Essay Contest entry

(Please check to indicate permission)

To be:

- Read at Florida Retired Educators events.
- Have name and photo published in local newspaper(s) and Florida Retired Educators newsletter and website
- Have name and photo displayed at Florida Retired Educators Events

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Address and phone number will not be published but may be needed for contact purposes.
Please return with photo no later than :

FREA Representative

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

District:

Unit:

Parent/Guardian Signature