



Letter to Teacher,
Parent, or Leader:

Dear 4th Grade Teacher/Parent/Leader:

The National Family & Community Education members in _____ (state/county) are sponsoring a nation-wide contest. The contest is based on the characteristic (*Current Character Value*), and we are asking students to write a short essay or short story about this trait. The contest starts at the county level, where entries will be judged, and winners recognized from the county. The first-place county entries will be forwarded to the state level. State FCE Associations, will, in turn, judge and recognize winners for the state. First place state entries will then be judged at the national level. The same judging criteria will be used in all states at all levels. These include creativity, content, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, vocabulary, and presentation of the handwriting. The National 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners receive a check of \$250, \$150, \$50 respectively. Contest criteria are as follows: **1.** Any 4th grade student, i.e. in public, private, home schools, 4-H, scouts, youth or church groups, etc. is eligible. **2.** Entries are to include an essay and a hand drawn artwork. Use #2 pencil, or computer type for essay. Use #2 pencil or colored pencils for artwork. You may color the artwork with colored pencils. No crayons or markers. Do not fold the artwork. Essay and artwork should reflect the characteristic (*Current Character*

Value). For artwork, use unlined, white paper approximately 8 ½ by 11. For essays, use lined, white paper approximately 8 ½ by 11. Use plain white paper if computer written. The essay shall be a minimum of 50 words. **3.** Students should write their name, date, teacher, or leader’s name on the back of the artwork and at the bottom of the essay. We hope you will join us in encouraging our students/children to strive for excellence in their writing and drawing skills and in the understanding of (*Current Character Value*), an essential characteristic. More information may be obtained by contacting the FCE member below. Mail the Essay and Artwork entry to the member below.
Sincerely,
Character Counts/Essay & Artwork Contest Chairperson

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For questions, please contact any FCE member or the:
National FCE Headquarters
HQ Secretary: Judy Jones
Phone: 859-525-6401
Email: nafcehq@fuse.net
Go to www.nafce.org for complete forms and instructions.

Strengthening individuals, families and communities through continuing education, developing leadership and community action.

Membership in the National Association for Family and Community Education is open to all persons without regard to sex, race, color, ethnic background or economic circumstances.

Sft 3-1-2023

National FCE
CHARACTER COUNTS!®
Essay and Artwork
Contests...
* **Caring**
* **Citizenship**
* **Trustworthiness**
* **Respect**
* **Responsibility**
* **Fairness**



The Six Pillars of Character.™



Complete forms and instructions can be located at www.nafce.org



National FCE members nationwide present an annual contest for anyone eligible as a 4th grade student, i.e., in public, private, home schools, 4-H, scouts, youth or church groups, etc. National FCE's Essay and Artwork Contest promotes FCE's literacy programs, CHARACTER COUNTS!® and community involvement. The purpose of the annual contest is to encourage students to understand and practice (*Current Character Value*), one of the Six Pillars of Character! ® The contest encourages students to strive for excellence and creativity in reading, writing, and drawing skills.

COUNTY LEVEL:

- The contest will start at the county level. ➤ The contest can run September 1, (*Current Year*) thru March 31, (*Current Year*). This date may be adjusted as long as the State entry is postmarked to National FCE by April 15th .
- Each county is responsible for notifying its local schools, library or other network that would have access to publicizing the contest to eligible 4th grade students. It is suggested that the principal of each school be contacted and asked for approval. Contact individual teachers/leader after approval is given.
- Make sure the contact information is on the Teacher/Parent/Leader letter and the Permission Form.

- Sign and complete the information for the 4th grade teacher/leader. Make a copy for each teacher/leader you visit or contact.
- If you choose to inform them of the local and state awards, type an additional paper stating what the awards are.
- Retired teachers are a good source for judging the entries. Each judge should receive a letter stating the contest criteria and a judging sheet with instructions. This will ensure that judges will use the same criteria on all levels.
- Local groups and counties may provide prizes and recognition to local and county winners. Obtain a permission form from the county winner. Send this form with the essay and artwork.
- Each county should forward the original copies of their first-place winner to the State FCE Essay and Artwork Chairperson by the state deadline.

STATE LEVEL:

- State FCE Associations will judge the winning entries from the counties/parishes in their state. Retired teachers are a good source for judging the entries. Please use judging instructions and judging sheet included in this packet. This will ensure that judges from all states will use the same criteria for all levels.
- State FCE Associations provide prizes and recognition to the state winners.
- Send the permission form and the original copy of the first-place winner for each state to the National FCE Headquarters postmarked by April 15, (*Current Year*). Please mail the winning entry in a 9"x12" manila envelope to avoid folding the Essay and Artwork.

NATIONAL LEVEL:

- The same judging criteria of creativity/content, grammar/punctuation/sentence structure, vocabulary, and presentation are used on all levels.
 - The National 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners of the 2023 Essay & Artwork Contest will be announced at the National FCE Annual Conference.
 - The National 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners receive visa gift card or check of \$250, \$150, \$50 respectively.
 - The National 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners' entries will be recognized on the National FCE website, with approval. **CONTEST CRITERIA:**
- 1.** Any 4th grade student, i.e., in public, private, home schools, 4-H, scouts, youth or church groups, etc. is eligible.
 - 2.** Entries are to include an essay and a hand drawn artwork. Use #2 pencil, or computer type for essay. Use #2 pencil or colored pencils for artwork. You may color the artwork with colored pencils. No crayons or markers. Do not fold the artwork. Essay and artwork should reflect the characteristic (*Current Character Value*). For artwork, use unlined, white paper approximately 8 ½ by 11. For essays, use lined, white paper approximately 8 ½ by 11. Use plain white paper if computer written. The essay shall be a minimum of 50 words.
 - 3.** Students should write their name, date, teacher/leader's name on the back of the artwork and the bottom of the essay. Thank you for your time and effort in helping make this a successful National Family & Community Education Project in Literacy!

