



STATE LEVEL:

State FCE

Associations will judge the winning entries from the local

organizations/counties/parishes in their state.

- Retired teachers are a good source for judging entries.
- **Please use judging instructions and judging sheet.** This will ensure that judges from all states will use the same criteria for all levels
- State FCE Associations can provide prizes and recognition to the state winners.
- State winners will be asked to provide a video recording of the winner reading their essay. (video will NOT be used in judging criteria).
- A photograph of the contestant will also be requested.
- Email all permission forms and the original copy of the first-place winner for each state to the National FCE Headquarters and the current National President by **April 15, of the current contest year**
- **Scanned copies of all the forms, essays, and artwork are to be emailed to the National FCE Headquarters. Artwork must be scanned and emailed in color.**

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 2027 Essay & Artwork
- Contest will be announced at the National FCE Annual Conference.
- The National 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners will receive a 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, state FCE websites, and other media forms.
- The video recording of the essay will be shown at the National FCE Conference

National FCE Headquarters

HQ Secretary: Judy Jones

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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.

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National FCE ***4th Grade*** ***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 applicant, i.e., in public, private, home schools, 4-H, scouts, youth



or church groups, etc. **This Essay Contest can be done at home.** National FCE's Essay and Artwork Contest promotes FCE's literacy programs, and community involvement. The purpose of the contest is to encourage applicants to understand and practice (current Character theme). The contest encourages applicants to strive for excellence and creativity in reading, writing, and drawing skills.

CONTEST CRITERIA:

- Any 4th grade applicant, i.e., in public, private, home schools, 4-H, scouts, youth or church groups, etc. is eligible.
- **This Essay Contest can be done at home.**
- Entries are to include an essay and hand drawn artwork.
- **Use #2 pencils, or computer to type essays.**
- **Use #2 pencils or colored pencils for artwork. No crayons or markers.**
- **Do not fold the artwork.**
- Essay and artwork should reflect the characteristic of (current Character theme).
- 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.**
- Applicants should print their complete name, date, and teacher/leader's name, and school, (if applicable) at the bottom of the artwork and at the bottom of the essay.

SUGGESTED LOCAL LEVEL:

The contest will start at the local level.

- The contest can run **September 1, through March 31.** This date may be adjusted as long as the State entry is emailed to National FCE and current National FCE President by April 15.
- Each local organization is responsible for notifying its parents, local schools, libraries, or other networks that would have access to publicizing the contest to eligible 4th grade applicants.
- It is suggested that the principal of each school be contacted and asked for approval. Contact individual teachers/leaders 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 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 may provide prizes and recognition to local and county winners. Obtain a permission form from the county winner.
- Each local organization should forward the original copies and forms of their first-place winner to the State FCE Essay and Artwork Coordinator by the state deadline.

