



George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum
Education Department
Grades 4-12 of ESC Region



2022 ONLINE ESSAY CONTEST

Best Place To Be

Call for original literary nonfiction essays researching, analyzing, and using critical thinking processes to create an original essay in a narrative story format with personalized characterizations. Consider your favorite place to be and the impact it makes on you. Is it possible to use your best place as a character? Conduct factual research, interviews, and consider aspects and issues of your best place. Use your understanding to write a narrative nonfiction literary essay. A reference list is required and note sources within your essay when used. All essay submissions shall be made online only.

SUBJECT CONTENT: Research, analyze and reflect on theme's topic. Here are some suggestions:

- Share what is special about your favorite place. Does it inspire curiosity in others? What makes it the way it is? What sensory features remind you of it? Does it have a special sound? Is there a special texture about it that you like? Others?
- Do you have a Hero or Heroes associated with your best place to be? Interview to discuss the role of relationships in making a place special. What is its history and how does that affect the place today?
- Describe the community where your best place is. What are the demographics and the economy? What types of houses are there? Vehicles? How do people interact? What is best to you about it and does anything need to improve.
- Describe best features of your favorite place and analyze why you feel a special affinity there. Is it related to elements of weather, wind or water, or nature's beauty in geographical features? Identify important environmental factors.
- Would you share aspects of your best place to help others? What is essential in creating your place? Examine elements enhancing positive life values and purpose. Interview others who may or may not agree with you about the best place to be.

Eligibility: Grades 4-12 Students of 15 counties in Texas Education Service Center Region 6.

Not eligible: Family of staff at George & Barbara Bush Foundation or Bush 41 Library and Museum.

Essays must be screened by teachers or homeschool parents for appropriate content.

Plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and will disqualify an entry.

One entry per student per contest. The Bush Library retains the right to use entries.

ONLINE SUBMISSIONS: <https://www.bush41.org/education/art-and-essay-contest>

ONLINE SUBMISSIONS: Begin Mon., January 24 and close Wed., March 2 at 11:59 p.m.

All essay entries shall be scanned/photographed and uploaded to [Bush41.org/education/art-and-essay-contest](https://www.bush41.org/education/art-and-essay-contest).

Please include a copy of the signed parent/guardian permission form.

For more information, email: bush.education@nara.gov

To answer specific questions, email: shirley.hammond@nara.gov

FORMAT

- Typed, Arial font size 12, double-spaced, one-inch margins; sources cited in essay and on attached page(s).
- Cover page: Student's name, grade, teacher, school, and title. Other pages: title and page number upper right.
- **Full Bibliography of all references including Interviews (Name and Date) as last page.**
- **Add notations throughout the essay of references where used.**

Length Requirements:

- **Grades 9 – 12:** 5-6 pages with additional reference pages. Minimum 1,200 words and an average of 1,500 words.
- **Grades 6 – 8:** 2-3 full pages and add reference page.
- **Grades 4 – 5:** 1-2 full pages and add reference page.

JURORS

Warren Finch, Director

Barbara Orville, Education Docent

Shirley Hammond, Education Director

AWARDS

AWARDS TO BE EMAILED

First place gift certificates given per grade based on individual essay:

- Grades 9 – 12: \$100 gift certificate
- Grades 6 – 8: \$75 gift certificate
- Grades 4 – 5: \$50 gift certificate

All students will receive a certificate of participation.

High School essay contest entrants will be entered in the 2022 Online Young Spurs Writing Contest (Learn more at <http://www.themayborn.com/young-spurs-writing-contest>.) Winners: a virtual workshop and conference!

Please indicate your interest: ___YES___NO (If no, your essay will not be entered in the Young Spurs Writing Contest.)

VIRTUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

- The Virtual Awards Ceremony for the Art and Essay Contests will be Thursday, April 28, 2022. Begins at 4:15 p.m.
- The 2022 Outstanding Educator Awards will be presented with appreciation for consistently supporting the enrichment and creativity of students through outstanding dedication, inspiration and encouragement above and beyond the classroom.
- THIS CONTEST IS FUNDED BY THE GEORGE & BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION.
- All students and parents/guardians must sign and date the permission slip below.

Please submit a copy of the permission slip when entry is uploaded.

UPLOAD PERMISSION SLIP

I hereby agree to:

1. Submit my original work to the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum for critiquing and judging.
2. Permit the Bush Library and Museum to display, reproduce or use my original work for any purpose.
3. Grant permission to the Bush Library to list the student's name, grade, school and I.S.D. in future use.
4. Grant and convey title of my work to the Bush Library and Museum, as required.

Student's Name (print clearly): Grade:

Parent/Guardian's Email: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name and Phone: _____

Title of Entry: _____

Teacher's Name and Phone: _____

Teacher's Email: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___