



Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board Essay Competition Official Rules

1. Students may enter the contest by completing the official entry form and submitting it with an original and five **(5) copies of an original essay (400- 500 words)** on the following topic:
 - **Youth Leadership: Change Agents for the Mississippi Delta's Future**
2. The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board Essay Competition is open to any student who resides in the following counties: DeSoto, Tunica, Coahoma, Sunflower, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Leflore, Humphreys, Holmes, and Yazoo and is enrolled as a high school senior at the time of entry, and who intends to attend a college or university following high school within the state of Mississippi. **All other entries will be disqualified.**
3. Each student may enter only one essay. The essay must have a title. The essay must be double-spaced with Times New Roman twelve-point font and stapled once in the upper left hand corner. The student must submit an original and five copies and the entry form should be stapled to the original copy. **Handwritten essays or essays presented in any other way will be disqualified.** Each essay entry must include the last four digits of the entrant's Social Security number, printed in the upper right-hand corner of each page. It must be the same number as that listed on the entry form. **DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE ESSAY.**
4. **All entries must be received no later than October 30, 2009 to be eligible for the contest.**
5. Entries should be sent to: Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board Essay Contest, P.O. Box 610, Clarksdale, MS 38614. The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board does not assume responsibility for lost, late, misdirected, mutilated, postage-due, or illegible entries, all of which will be disqualified. **All materials will become the property of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board and will not be returned.**
6. Essays must be original. A five-member panel representing the counties served by the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board will judge them. The decisions of the judges will be final. Essays will be judged on the following criteria:
 - **Comprehension** (1-20 points) _____
How well does the essay reflect a thorough comprehension of the issues/ideas involved in the essay topic?
 - **Organization** (1-20 points) _____
Does the essay follow a logical and easily understood format? Is there evidence to support the essay's main points?
 - **Conclusions** (1-20 points) _____
Do the conclusions follow logically? How compelling are the conclusions?
 - **Creativity** (1-20 points) _____
Does the essay present a creative angle on the topic? Is there a use of diverse resources,

including interviews?

- **Writing** (1-20 points) _____

Does the writer use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and variety in sentence structure and vocabulary?

In the event of a tie, the essay with the higher score for creativity will win.

Students must have a sponsor to certify the authenticity of the essay, provide guidance, and lend support. The sponsor's name must be listed on the cover sheet.

All essays and all rights to their publication become the property of the Yazoo- Mississippi Delta Levee Board.

Winners will be selected and announced during the month of November. Notification letters will be sent to the winners and school administrators.

AWARDS: Five awards will be given. The first place winner will receive a \$700.00 scholarship. The second place winner will receive a \$500.00 scholarship. Third and fourth place winners will receive \$300.00. The fifth place winner will receive \$200.00. Upon notification of the participant's enrollment in an accredited college or university within the state of Mississippi, the Levee Board will send the funds to the student.

The first place winner and his/her sponsor and parents will be invited to a Levee Board meeting in Clarksdale to be recognized. Mileage reimbursements will be provided. The winner will join the Levee Board Commissioners for lunch and will present his/her essay.



Yazoo Mississippi Delta Levee Board Essay Entry Form

Name: _____

Mailing Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Last **four** digits of Social Security Number: _____

Name of School: _____ Grade _____

Number of words in essay: _____

Parent's or Guardian's Name _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Note: Please type or write legibly. This is the only sheet your name should appear on.