



Essay Contest & Scholarship Rules

Who: For students entering 5th - 9th grades.

What: The Summer 2011 Essay Contest, sponsored by *English Center USA*, is a merit-based contest and scholarship for students in the Champaign-Urbana area and surrounding communities. The scholarship is a tuition waiver awarded to three students who write a winning essay of up to 300 - 500 words (*typed in 12 pt. font size*) on one of the following topics.

- 1) What makes the Champaign-Urbana area (or surrounding community) special?
- 2) Why is enriching your English skills important, and how will it impact your life?
- 3) Select a mentor or teacher and describe how he or she changed or improved your life.

Why: Winners receive a FREE SCHOLARSHIP for one POWER LEARNING WORKSHOP for the Summer 2011 session, and a FREE Power Learning T-SHIRT. Winners and their essays will be featured on the *Power Learning* and *English Center USA* websites. Winners may also be announced in the local media.

Judging Criteria: A panel of judges comprised of English Center USA faculty and staff will determine winning essays based upon the following criteria:

- * Effective and insightful development of a point of view on the topic
- * Clearly-stated and appropriate examples, reasons, or other supportive evidence
- * Well-organized and focused, with smooth progression of ideas
- * Correct use of grammar, punctuation, and spelling

Submission deadline: English Center USA must receive the essay by noon on June 1, 2011. Submissions should be mailed or delivered to English Center USA, 1001 S. Wright St., Champaign, IL 61820 (inside the University YMCA building). Emailed submissions will not be accepted. English Center USA employees and their families are NOT eligible to participate in the essay contest.

Power Learning workshops are accelerated learning programs in advanced writing, critical thinking and reading skills for middle and high school students. Power Learning workshops are for students who want to build intellectual and academic skills which allow them to excel not only on tests, but in all scholastic endeavors. Workshops are taught by experienced faculty from English Center USA. For information about *Power Learning* workshops, or for additional contest information visit:

www.PowerLearningUSA.net



Contest Application

Include this application (or facsimile) stapled to student's essay. All information needs to be included in order to be considered.

Student's Name:	Entering Grade:
School name this year:	School next year (if different):
Parent/Guardian Name:	
Parent's Address:	
Parent's Phone:	Alternate Phone:
Parent's Email:	

I give my permission to have my child _____ (name) enter the Power Learning Contest. I understand that all essays submitted become the property of English Center USA and will not be returned. Essays may be reproduced, printed, or otherwise used by English Center USA. I give my permission to have my child's name and winning essay announced on the *Power Learning* and *English Center USA* websites, and /or announced in the local media.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Name

TO THE STUDENT APPLICANT:

My contest entry includes:

- This completed application stapled to my essay
- My essay, typed, using 12 pt. font
- 300 – 500 word-essay on one of the following topics (please check one):
 - 1. What makes the Champaign-Urbana area (or surrounding communities) special?
 - 2. Why is enriching your English skills important, and how will it impact your life?
 - 3. Select a mentor or teacher and describe how he or she changed or improved your life.
- Parental signature (above), and my signature (below).

The attached essay is a sample of my own work.

Student signature

Student Name