

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ESSAY COMPETITION

Contest Period: September 15, 2016 – October 3, 2016

Deadline for Submission: October 3, 2016 at 12:00 a.m.

THEME: HONORING OUR HERITAGE BUILDING OUR FUTURE - THE NEW GENERATION CONTINUING OUR TRADITION

SPONSOR: The contest is sponsored by the Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education of the Virgin Islands Department of Education.

Eligibility/Essay Submission: Entrants must comply with the following requirements:

- a. Each entrant must be a student in the Virgin Islands in our public, private, or parochial schools.
- b. Each entrant has to be **enrolled in the 6th through the 12th grade.**
- c. Entrants must submit an original essay that answers, in 500 words or less, **“What are three (3) significant elements that Puerto Rican culture has contributed to the Virgin Islands? What impact have they had on Virgin Islands culture?”**
- d. All essays must comply with the following guidelines before submission:
 - a. No literary form other than an essay will be accepted.
 - b. Each essay must reflect the entrants own research, writing and original thinking.
 - c. Essay must be written in English.
 - d. Only one (1) essay maybe entered per entrant.
 - e. Each entrant must complete an official entry form signed by a guidance counselor or teacher from the school where the entrants attends.
 - f. Essay must be typed. All written entries will be disqualified.
 - g. The essay text is limited to five hundred words, doubled space, single sided, numbered pages, with one (1) inch margin.
 - h. Each essay must include a title page, not considered part of the 500 word text with the following information:
 - Essay Title
 - Authors Name
 - Authors Grade Level
 - School Name
 - School Address
 - School Telephone number
 - Total Number of Pages of Essay
 - Name of Verifying Teacher or Guidance counselor
- j. The title of the essay, but **NOT** the author’s name, must appear **MUST** appear on the top of the first page of the essay.
- k. If references are included they should be clearly identified.

Entrants must send two copies of their essay to:

Entrants on St. Croix:

Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education
P.O. Box 2133 Hospital Street
Christiansted, St. Croix 00820

Entrants on St. Thomas

Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education
P.O. Box 1834
Kongens Gade
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas 00802

OR EMAIL TWO COPIES TO: VALRICA.BRYSON@VIDE.VI

*****All entries must include the one-page Entry Form shown below*****

General: All entries must be submitted with a completed Official Entry Form (available at www.vide.vi) including teacher/guidance counselor verification and Parent or Legal Guardian approval. Mail-in entries require entrants to mail the official entry form. Please note, any that is missing a completed and signed Official entry form will not be accepted.

By submitting an entry, entrants a) represent constitute original works of creativity that do not violate the property rights of any other person or organization and b) we have the right to reprint, exhibit, distribute, televise, promote and otherwise use the entries, in whole or in part, in various media throughout the world without further compensation unless otherwise prohibited by law. We reserve the right to use, edit or modify any submission from its original format or content.

Selection of Winners/Prizing: The competition will be divided into two separate competitions as follows: All eligible entries will be divided into two groups. The first group will be comprised of all eligible entries from the middle school participants (grades 6, 7, 8). The second group will be comprised of all eligible entries from high school participants (grades 9, 10, 11 and 12). There will be one competition for the middle schools. For each competition, there will be one (1) grand prize winner one (1) 1st place winner, one (1) 2nd place winner, and one (1) 3rd place winner will be selected amongst all eligible entries received. Entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges according to the following criteria:

- I. **Comprehension** (1- 10 points) - How well does the essay reflect a thorough comprehension of the essay topic?
- II. **Organization** (1- 20 points) - Does the argument/discussion follow a logical and easily understood progression? Does any outside evidence contained in the essay support the essay's main point?
- III. **Conclusion** (1 -20 points) - Does the conclusion follow logically from the main body of the essay? How compelling are the conclusions?

- IV. **Creativity** (1- 20 points) - Use of diverse resources, such as interviews or quotes from others: story-telling approach; creative angle
- V. **Writing (1-20 points)** - Correct grammar, spelling punctuation, concise language.

Calculations for Prizes:

For each competition the entrant who gets the highest combined score will be the Grand Prize winner. The entrant who gets the second highest combined score will be the 1st place winner, the entrant who gets the third highest combined score will be the 2Nd place winner and the entrant who gets the fourth highest combined score will be the 3rd place winner. The likelihood and odd of winning a particular prize depends on the quality of each entry compared to the quality of other entries, as judged by the criteria stated in these Official Rules.

Any and all tie-breakers will be determined by the Sponsors in their sole discretion. Winners will be selected on or about October 1, 2016. Winners will be announced on or about October 15, 2016. Winners will also be notified by phone, e-mail, and/or at the address stated on their entry form, within three (3) business days after the selection.

Grand Prize: Laptop, Tablet, Trophy

1st Place: Tablet, Trophy

2nd Place: Tablet, Trophy

3rd Place: Tablet, Trophy

DIVISION OF VIRGIN ISLANDS CULTURAL EDUCATION

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ENTRY FORM

Student Name:		Grade:	
Title of Essay:		Word Count:	
Home Mailing Address:		Age:	
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Parent/Legal Guardian Name:			
Parent/Legal Guardian Cell Phone Number:		Parent/Legal Guardian e-mail address:	
School Name:		District:	
School Mailing Address:		City:	School Phone Number:
Teacher/Counselor Signature:		Teacher/Counselor ext.	

As parent or guardian, I acknowledge that my child has written the attached essay. Should he or she win the essay contest, I agree to allow the essay to be distributed publicly. I also understand that if it is discovered my child plagiarized or that the thoughts expressed are not his or her own, the essay will be subject to disqualification.

I, _____, **(Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian)**,

I hereby certify the following: I am the parent/legal guardian of _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date