



Chicago Public Schools, American Bottling Company and Roosevelt University

## 2012 Black History Month Essay Competition

Open to all CPS students, grades 9-12. Essays must be received at Central Office by February 23, 2012.

### INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

#### Important Deadlines:

- February 21** Deadline for students to submit essays to school Competition Coordinator, who will read them and select the best essay from each grade level, to enter for judging.
- February 23, 12:00 p.m.** Deadline to fax essays for judging to Central Office.
- February 24** Put all essays, including those not selected for judging, in mail run; they are due at Central Office by 3/2.

#### Process:

- Posters:** Select an essay competition coordinator and put his/her name at the bottom of the competition poster, which will be delivered to the school principals late January/early February.
- Copies of Rules and Entry Forms for Students:** Make copies of the attached Information for Students with Entry Form and distribute them to your students.
- Sending in the Essays:** Students must submit their essays to the school essay competition coordinator by February 21, 2012. Read all submitted essays and select the best one from 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, 11<sup>th</sup> grade and 12<sup>th</sup> grade for judging. **IMPORTANT: The essays selected for judging must be received at Central Office by Wednesday, February 23, 2012 at 12:00 p.m.** Please FAX them to either 773-553-2831 or 773-553-3251, Attention: Babette Klein. Be sure to send the Entry Form, followed by the corresponding essay, the next Entry Form, followed by the corresponding essay, etc. Also, please indicate the number of pages you are sending on the fax cover sheet. To compete for the "school participation" prize, all essays from your school, including those not selected for judging, must be submitted. The essays that are not for judging may be sent through the mail run and must be received at Central Office by February 28th. Please put them in the mail run on February 24<sup>th</sup> to: Babette Klein - Nutrition Support Services - 16th floor - GSR 125.
- Judging Panel:** The judging panel will include two (2) ABC staff members, two (2) CPS staff members and two (2) Roosevelt University staff members.
- Notification of Winners:** The winning schools will be notified of competition winners.

#### Rules:

- Grades 9-10: essay length 500-600 words. Grades 11-12: essay length 600-700 words. Essays must be written in English.
- An Entry Form must be stapled to each essay. Submissions must be anonymous; essays with the student's name or the school's name written on them will be disqualified. All identifying information must be on the Entry Form and stapled to the essay, not written on the essay itself. (See Entry Form at bottom of Information for Students sheet.)
- Essays typed on a computer must be in a 12-point font size and font must be easy to read (no bold fonts).
- Handwritten essays must be legible, on plain white or lined paper. They may be printed or in cursive.
- The title of the essay must be written at the top of the first page.
- Essays will be judged on originality and creativity, cultural knowledge and research, organizational structure and clarity, as well as spelling and grammar. Essays will not be returned to the schools and it is suggested that students and schools each keep a copy.

**TOPIC FOR ESSAYS:** George Washington Carver, African-American scientist (1864-1943) said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because some day in life you will have been all these." (1) What events in Carver's life could have made him say this? and (2) Describe a situation in your own life that relates to these words and how you think it will influence your future behavior.

#### Prizes:

##### For Students:

**Grand Prizes:** Four (4) laptop computers and printers awarded to each of the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students responsible for the top essay in their grade level.

**Second Place Prizes:** Four (4) digital cameras and photo printers awarded to each of the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students responsible for the second place essay in their grade level.

**Scholarships:** A \$5,000 Roosevelt University scholarship awarded to each of the Grand Prize winning students. Recipients will hold rights to their scholarships until they graduate high school. Students using the scholarship must meet Roosevelt University admission criteria.

##### For Teachers/Staff:

Four (4) \$500 cash prizes awarded for professional development for teachers/staff at the four schools with the highest rate of participation. Eight (8) \$100 gift cards awarded to monitoring teachers of the grand prize and second place winners.

*The winners, their families and school representatives will be invited to an awards banquet.  
For further information, contact Babette Klein at 773-553-2859 or bsklein@cps.k12.il.us.*