



B'NAI B'RITH
INTERNATIONAL

Achim/Gate City Lodge (Atlanta)

Presents



Enlighten America, our annual **Essay Contest** for 7th thru 9th-grade students encourages respect and tolerance of our friends' and neighbors' diverse religious beliefs and racial/cultural backgrounds. Learn how to enter this contest by reading this document. All entries must be received by Friday, April 10, 2020. Winners will be announced in mid-May, 2020.

Winners in each grade category will receive the prizes listed below:

- First-place winners will be awarded \$350.
- Second-place winners will be awarded \$250.
- Third-place winners will be awarded \$150.

The Enlighten America Essay Contest serves as a framework or “model of instruction” designed to support teachers in the implementation of the Reading and Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects [Grades 6-8](#), [Grades 9](#) and the [English Language Arts \(ELA\) Georgia Standards of Excellence \(GSE\)](#) (see pages 19 -25 for specific standards) for [7th grade](#), [8th grade](#), and [9th grade](#) in the following writing skill areas:

- Text Types and Purposes
- Production and Distribution of Writing
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge
- Range of Writing

We hope that schools, teachers, and students will benefit through the Enlighten America Essay Contest as a teaching and learning activity to promote student success as it relates to the Georgia Performance Standards.

Click to Learn More:

- [It's an Essay Contest](#)
- [A Personal Pledge](#)
- [Enlighten America Essay Contest Guidelines](#)
- [Sponsors](#)
- [Enlighten America 2020 Flyer](#)
- [Enlighten America 2020 Essay Contest Awards Ceremony](#): Guest Speaker, Dan Mariaschin, CEO of B'nai B'rith International speaking on "Tolerance, Equality, and Respect for All People"
- [About Achim/Gate City Lodge of B'nai B'rith \(Atlanta\)](#)
- [About B'nai B'rith International](#)

It's an Essay Contest

Have you heard the one about....?

Ethnic jokes and other insensitive comments can be hurtful and offensive to more than just the target. The joke you tell could hurt YOU! And everyone around you!

The **2020 Enlighten America Essay Contest** is a volunteer community service project brought to you by the [Achim/Gate City Lodge](#) of [B'nai B'rith International](#).

[Enlighten America](#) began in 2000 as a B'nai B'rith International response to shootings sparked by racial and religious hatred in Los Angeles, Chicago, Pittsburgh, New York and elsewhere. Sadly, there appears to be no end in sight to this senseless hatred and killing. A B'nai B'rith task force developed this response as a way to get involved, to improve ourselves, our communities and our world.

This essay contest focuses on the concepts of tolerance, equality, and respect for all people. It stresses civic harmony over violence and equality over prejudice. To participate, middle and high school students (grades 7-9) should reflect on the significance of the contest theme - respect for our diversity in race, religion, national origin, gender, disability and sexual orientation- by writing about the issues of bigotry and prejudice, how such issues have (or have not) been addressed in recent years, and how such issues affect our quest for peaceful coexistence among our friends and neighbors, and throughout the world.

We ask you to research and select one or more quotes attributed to an American president, a world leader, or a local community leader. Write about the meaning of the specific quote and how this relates to our society today. You may also reflect on the [personal pledge](#) or use a current event, an event in your life, or an event in history. Tell us why you chose the quote/s or event you selected and its relevance to the issues of bigotry or prejudice. Be sure to fully define the problem and address the challenges that might be faced in implementing solutions and improvements.

At B'nai B'rith International, we encourage responsibility and mutual respect for the differences in all people. If we accept the premise that all people are special, we're better able to accept individual differences.

To be eligible for a prize, be sure to follow **ALL** of the [Contest Guidelines](#) and submit your essay online by **Friday, April 10, 2020**. Good luck! You could be the next prize winner.



A Personal Pledge

Although signing this pledge and adhering to its points is strictly voluntary, we hope you will live by the principles suggested and encourage others to do the same. Please print out this pledge to share with your classmates, family, and friends.

Recognizing that peaceful coexistence depends upon mutual respect, I promise the following:

- I will not engage in stereotyping people based on their race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation or mental or physical disability. People should be viewed as the individuals they are. I will not assume that everyone representing a specific group has the same skill level, intelligence level or personality traits.
- I will refrain from using slang or disparaging language descriptions referring to a person's race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or mental or physical disability.
- I will not tell jokes that demean or make fun of people because of their race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or mental or physical disability. Such jokes told at the expense of an individual or group of people show a lack of respect and consideration for their feelings.
- Just as I can choose to follow or disregard my own religious and cultural traditions, customs and beliefs, I will respect the right of others to observe (or not observe) their traditions, customs and beliefs as they choose. I will not prevent or discourage anyone from following their religious or cultural practices.
- If I hear my classmates, friends or family engage in any of these activities, I will explain why it's wrong and ask them to stop.

Signature _____ Date _____

Enlighten America Essay Contest Guidelines

Please read these Enlighten America Essay Contest Guidelines **carefully** before submitting your essay. Essays **must** meet **ALL** requirements to qualify for evaluation. Any contest entry not meeting the requirements listed below, in the opinion of our panel of judges, will be automatically disqualified.

1. The 2020 contest is open to public, private, religious, and home-schooled students in 7th through 9th grades in metropolitan Atlanta. Only one entry per student. Past winners are not eligible to participate.
2. All entries submitted to the Enlighten America Essay Contest must be original work created by the student and represent the independent effort of the student. If the submitted work is copied from another writer or is plagiarized, the student will be disqualified from the Enlighten America Awards.
3. Each essay submitted must list the name of their Nominating Teacher on the online registration form. The role of a Nominating Teacher is to provide students with support and advice during the writing of their essays. Nominating Teachers are also asked to read students' essays to make suggestions for improvement before they are submitted to the essay contest. As part of this preliminary review process, the Nominating Teacher reviews the essay for syntax, grammatical, typographical and spelling errors and ensures the essay meets the contest requirements listed above. The parent or legal guardian responsible for the instruction of homeschooled students can also serve as a Nominating Teacher. **For each class of 20 to 30 students, we ask that the Nominating Teacher submit the four top student essays to the Enlighten America Essay Contest.** B'nai B'rith will email every Nominating Teacher an Enlighten America Certificate of Participation (in Word and PDF formats) that can be used for local school recognition of essays not submitted to the Enlighten America contest.

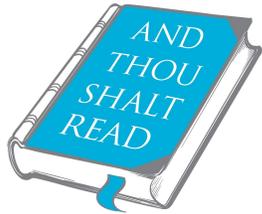
4. All students must complete and submit an online registration form (7th-grade [registration](#), 8th-grade [registration](#), 9th-grade [registration](#)) for student and school information, including the following information. Registration forms submitted that do not include the following information will be disqualified.
 - 4.1. Student's full name, age, grade, address, email, and home telephone number,
 - 4.2. School name, address, phone number
 - 4.3. Nominating Teacher name, phone number, and email
 - 4.4. Parent name and parent phone number, city and county of residence
 - 4.5. Title of Essay
 - 4.6. Word count of the essay
 - 4.7. Certification by Nominating Teacher that the essay is the student's original work or certification by sponsoring parent/legal guardian of a home-schooled student that the essay is the student's original work
 - 4.8. Essays uploaded in PDF format. Note: You will be required to sign-in to Google when using the online registration form (links above). Essays must be named according to the following format and NOT include the student's name: <essay title, grade level-2020>. Example file name: <DiversityIsAwesome-6th-2020>
5. All entries must be received by Friday, April 10, 2020, at 11:59 PM EST in order to be considered.
6. Each entry must show evidence of thoughtful reflection and research on the topic. Essays must have a minimum of four sources. All sources must be clearly cited.
7. Students may choose to write an opinion essay, research paper, short story or play with monologue or dialogue.
8. Entries preferably are typed, must be double-spaced, 12 pt. Arial font, using one side of each page. May be handwritten (must be legible) and scanned as a PDF.
9. Essays must be 600 to 1,000 words. Citations and bibliography are not included in the word count. Please use the "word count" feature of the software to make sure your essay is within the allotted space guidelines. The word count of the essay is required on the registration page. All essays less than 600 words or more than 1000 words will be disqualified from judging.

10. Entries will be judged by grade level based on (1) content, (2) grammar, (3) originality and creativity, (4) quality of expression, and (5) appropriateness to the subject matter described on [page 3](#), with equal weight being given to each of the five criteria. Judges will look for clear, concise writing that is original, articulate, logically organized, and well supported.
11. All decisions from our panel of independent judges are final.
12. Contest winners will be announced and individually contacted in mid-May, 2020.
13. B'nai B'rith International reserves the right to publish and/or display any/all entries in their entirety, or excerpt(s) with credit given to the student author. By entering this competition, each individual entrant grants B'nai B'rith a world-wide, non-exclusive, royalty-free, transferable license to use the entrants' names, photographs, and/or biographical information for advertising, publicity, and promotional purposes.
14. For questions, please contact Victor Anapolle, the Contest Coordinator, at vanapolle@aol.com or 404-432-0626.

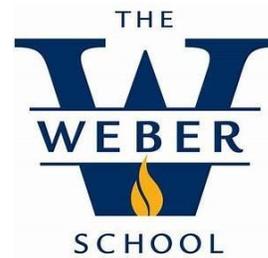
Sponsors

Many THANKS to our Committee Members and the growing list of Sponsors and Contributors to our 2020 Enlighten America Essay Contest!

WE APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU and ALL THAT YOU DO!



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Interested in becoming a Sponsor of our Student Essay Contest?

On MEMO line, please write "EA Contest" and make check payable / mail to:

BBI (B'nai B'rith International) AGC Lodge #0144,
c/o Harry Lutz, Treasurer, 1748 Corners Cove, Dunwoody, GA 30338

For more info, contact Harry at: 678-485-8179, hslutz_fsa@yahoo.com.

Contributions may be tax deductible.

B'nai B'rith International is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

About Achim/Gate City Lodge of B'nai B'rith (Atlanta)

[B'nai B'rith International](#) has advocated for global Jewry and championed the cause of human rights since 1843. B'nai B'rith is recognized as a vital voice in promoting Jewish unity and continuity, a staunch defender of the State of Israel, a tireless advocate on behalf of senior citizens and a leader in disaster relief. With a presence around the world, we are the Global Voice of the Jewish Community.

B'nai B'rith International is widely respected as one of the world's largest Jewish membership organizations promoting human rights, community action, and humanitarian efforts. *Tikkun Olam* is a concept that is an integral part of being Jewish. Loosely translated, it refers to our obligation to repair the world, to make the world a better place in which to live, work and play. What we in BBI do is in keeping with Tikkun Olam.

The B'nai B'rith [Achim/Gate City](#) Lodge, established in 1870, is one of the oldest B'nai B'rith lodges. At the [local level](#), we organize and promote volunteer community service programs, including:

- Our [“Pinch Hitter” program](#) (a tradition since 1980) provides hundreds of volunteers in Atlanta area hospitals and assisted living facilities to relieve Christian employees from non-technical, non-medical duty on Christmas Day so they can celebrate their holiday with their families. In 1990, President George Bush (the first) recognized this program as his 335th Volunteer Point of Light.
- Enlighten America, our [annual Essay Contest](#) for 7th, 8th and 9th-grade students, encourages respect and tolerance of our friends and neighbors' diverse religious beliefs and racial/cultural backgrounds. The [winners](#) of the 2019 Enlighten America Essay Contest were announced on May 9.
- Unto Every Person There Is a Name — We read aloud names of actual victims of the Holocaust to help people realize that there were 6 million individual lives lost, not just a monolith of many people grouped together. This [nationally observed B'nai B'rith program](#) generally occurs around Yom HaShoah. Anyone who would like to do so may read the names of victims; it is quite a moving experience for the reader and for those hearing the names being read.

- Cares for Kids — We deliver new and gently used stuffed animals to children in hospitals and homeless shelters as well as police departments. Since 1997 we have distributed more than 20,000 furry friends to these children and brought countless smiles to their faces. If you have stuffed animals to contribute, please contact Cindy Sedran at cindytr@gmail.com.

We supplement these programs with dinners out, social gatherings and emergency public service projects when arising situations need our help.

Thank you for visiting our Enlighten America webpage. If you're entering our contest, good luck. All contest entries will be judged equally. However, if you're an adult and considering membership in [B'nai B'rith International](#), please complete [the membership form](#) and mail as indicated.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation in support of this contest or any of our other humanitarian volunteer projects, thank you for your generosity. B'nai B'rith International is a 501(c)3 charitable organization under IRS guidelines. Please make your check payable to B'nai B'rith Achim/Gate City Lodge, and send it to:

*B'nai B'rith Achim/Gate City Lodge #0144
c/o Harry Lutz, Treasurer
1748 Corners Cove, Dunwoody, GA 30338*

We are now a [PayPal](#) registered charity and enrolled in the PayPal Giving Fund. You can click on our [GIVING PAGE](#) to donate to the programs and activities of our lodge. Log in or sign up for PayPal so 100% of your donation reaches us and contributes to our mission. <http://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2410632>

Your donation will proceed in the safest, most secure and confidential environment possible. Be aware that making a donation will not affect the contest finalists' selection or the awarding of any prizes.

For more information about membership here in Georgia, please contact Harry Lutz at harry.lutz.45@gmail.com or 678-485-8179.

For more information about B'nai B'rith in Atlanta, please visit www.atlantajewishconnector.com/organization/bnai-brith-achim-gate-city/ or www.bnaibrith.org/atlanta-georgia.html.



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