



Postmark Deadline: Friday March 2, 2012

The University of California, San Diego Early Academic Outreach Program presents:

The Fourteenth Annual César E. Chávez High School Essay Contest

for high school students in San Diego, Imperial, and Orange Counties

Grand Prize Winner: \$1000

12th Grade Winner: \$500

11th Grade Winner: \$400

10th Grade Winner: \$300

9th Grade Winner: \$200

Honorable Mention Winners: \$100

Instructions for completing essays:

Write a two-page, typed essay answering the essay prompt presented. Be sure to develop your essay in a clear, concise manner. Include your name, address, phone number and school name on the **Essay Contest Application**. Please mail completed application and essay to:

César E. Chávez Essay Contest
Attention: Dr. Mario E. Aguilar
UCSD EAOP
9500 Gilman Drive #0305, La Jolla, CA 92093-0305

All prizes will be awarded at the 14th Annual César E. Chávez Commemorative Celebration to be held in April, 2012. The Grand Prize Winner will be invited to read the winning essay onstage. All essay winners will be invited to attend the community breakfast. The winners will also be recognized at community celebrations and at UCSD events honoring César E. Chávez. This essay contest is open to San Diego, Imperial, and Orange County students in grades 9-12. Past winners are ineligible. All submitted essays will become the property of the San Diego César E. Chávez Commemorative Committee. A panel of representatives from UCSD will select the winners.

14th Annual César E. Chávez High School Essay Contest

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For high school students in San Diego, Imperial, and Orange Counties

8. Community

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."¹

9. Knowledge

"Students must have initiative; they should not be mere imitators. They must learn to think and act for themselves and be free."¹

Essay Topic Questions:

Using the core values above and connecting your personal experience, please answer **BOTH** questions:

1. **What are you doing to use your education to empower your family and neighborhood? What future goals do you have that will help future generations find equality, justice, and prosperity?**
2. **Education does not occur only in a school setting. What have you done to learn from your community's elders, artists, and leaders? How can you use the "community wisdom" you have inherited to help empower children, families, and YOUR community? How will the knowledge you have gained be transmitted into future generations that will take your place?**

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For more information, call (858) 534-4250 or visit:

eaop.ucsd.edu

For Committee Use Only: # _____



Eaop.ucsd.edu

Essay Contest Application

Please type or print

Last Name	First Name	Home Phone Number ()
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Street Address	City	State	Zip Code
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e-mail address	Grade:
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Teacher/Counselor Name	School Name	School Phone Number ()
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Submit completed applications and essays to:

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The Core Values of César E. Chávez

1. Service to Others

Service that is predicated on empowering others; engendering self-help, self-determination, and self-sufficiency versus charity.

"When we are really honest with ourselves we must admit that our lives are all that really belong to us. So, it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of [people] we are. It is my deepest belief that only by giving our lives do we find life."

2. Sacrifice

Sacrifice that is spiritual; that is courageous and steadfast in its willingness to endure great hardship for others.

"I am convinced that the truest act of courage, the strongest act of manliness, is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally non-violent struggle for justice. To be [human] is to suffer for others. God help us to be human."

3. A Preference to Help the Most Needy

A concerted effort to support programs that reach the most needy, the most dispossessed, the most forgotten people in society no matter how difficult the challenge that choice may bring.

"We are tired of words, of betrayals, of indifference...the years are gone when the farm worker said nothing and did nothing to help himself...Now we have new faith. Through our strong will, our movement is changing these conditions...We shall be heard."

4. Determination

Determination that is characterized by an attitude that with faith, steadfast commitment, patience, and optimism, human beings can prevail against all odds.

"We draw our strength from the very despair in which we have been forced to live. We shall endure."

5. Non-Violence

Invoking non-violence as the most powerful tool for achieving social/economic justice and equality; action that requires boldness and courage versus meekness and passivity

"Non-violence is not inaction. It is not discussion. It is not for the timid or weak... Non-violence is hard work. It is the willingness to sacrifice. It is the patience to win."

6. Acceptance

An essential ingredient for success in organizing diverse forces to achieve social change, create community, and actualize democracy is the acceptance of all people; an absolutely indispensable necessity to the well-being of this country.

"We need to help students and parents cherish and preserve the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens... this nation."

7. Respect for Life and the Environment

Respect that holds as sacred the land, the people, and all other forms of life.

"However important the struggle is and however much misery and poverty and degradation exist, we know that it cannot be more important than one human life."

8. Community

Sharing the joyous and respectful expression of cultural diversity through the reinforcement of the values of equity and responsibility to and for one another.

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

9. Knowledge

The pursuit of self-directed learning and the development of critical thinking and constructive problem solving skills; overcoming ignorance through education.

"Students must have initiative; they should not be mere imitators. They must learn to think and act for themselves and be free."

10. Innovation

A creative capacity to find pragmatic strategies and tactics to resolve problems and situations that often seem insurmountable to others.

"A lasting organization is one in which people will continue to build, develop and move when you are not there."

CESAR E. CHAVEZ FOUNDATION

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