



EARLY ACADEMIC OUTREACH PROGRAM

9500 GILMAN DRIVE 0305B
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0305
(858) 534-4250 (858) 534-8996 FAX
eaop.ucsd.edu eaop@ucsd.edu

Imperial Valley Satellite Office
600 S. WILSON ST., RM. 4
EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA 92243
(760) 337-5123 (760) 353-1243 FAX

San Diego Cesar E. Chavez Commemoration Committee

High School Essay Contest

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

ENTRY DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2013

The University of California, San Diego, in partnership with the San Diego César E. Chávez Commemoration Committee and San Diego Metropolitan Credit Union, is proud to sponsor the Fifteenth Annual César E. Chávez Essay Contest for students in San Diego, Imperial and Orange Counties. The contest is in honor of the life and achievements of the late civil rights and labor leader. Dedicated to non-violence, Chávez founded and led the first successful farm workers union in American history and was a principal figure in the Chicano Civil Rights Movement. He died in 1993, and his birthday, March 31, has been designated a state holiday.

Organized by UCSD's Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP), the contest is open to students in grades 9 through 12. It will be part of a wide range of community celebrations sponsored by the university and the commemoration committee recognizing Chávez and the state holiday named in his honor. The deadline for entries is FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2013

A cash prize will be awarded to the author of the best essay in each grade-level category.

PLEASE SUBMIT THE ATTACHED ENTRY FORM WITH YOUR ESSAY. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: 858.534.4250.



¡Sí Se Puede!  Established 1993

San Diego Cesar E Chavez Commemoration Committee High School Essay Contest

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

Presented by UC San Diego & San Diego Metropolitan Credit Union



All winners will be invited to attend the
UCSD Cesar Chavez Celebration at UCSD on April 3, 2013
And the 15th Annual Cesar E Chavez Community Breakfast in April (TBA)
All prizes will be awarded at the 15th Annual Cesar E Chavez Community Breakfast

Grand Prize: \$ 1,000 & Laptop Computer

The Grand Prize winner will be invited to read their essay on stage.

12th Grade Winner: \$500
11th Grade Winner: \$400
10th Grade Winner: \$300
9th Grade Winner: \$200

Postmark Deadline: Friday, March 15, 2013

To submit your essay:

1. Complete *Essay Contest Application*
2. Write a **double-spaced, two-page (600-700 words)** essay answering the prompt presented in the *Essay Instructions*. Be sure to develop your essay in a clear, concise manner. Do NOT include your name on your essay.
3. Send application and essay to the address provided



Essay Instructions

Using the Core Value below, the Committee’s theme “Inspiring Hope, Promoting Wellness, Fighting for Justice” and your own personal experience, please answer *1 (one)* of the following questions.

Core Value: *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.”—Cesar E. Chavez

(1) Cesar E. Chavez was a person who cared profoundly for life and the environment. Why do you think Cesar Chavez held these values so closely? How have his values inspired your life?

(2) Organizing: *The process of bringing people together to achieve a common goal.*

Cesar E. Chavez used the power of organizing to fight for a better quality of life and the environment, causes greater than himself. What steps have you taken to better a cause in your life? What lessons from Cesar E. Chavez have influenced your approach?

Essay Contest Application

Last Name		First Name	
Home Phone Number ()		Cell Phone Number ()	
Street Address	City	State	Zip Code
E-mail address:		Word Count:	
School Name:		Grade Level:	Teacher Name:
School Phone Number ()		Fax Number (optional) ()	

Please mail completed application and double-spaced, two-page (600-700 words) essay to:

San Diego Cesar E. Chavez Essay Contest
UCSD Early Academic Outreach Program
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093-0305

For more information, please contact EAOP at (858) 534-4250

*All submitted essays will become the property of the San Diego Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Committee.
A panel of volunteer judges from throughout San Diego County will select the winners.*

The Core Values of César E. Chávez⁽¹⁾

The core values that form the foundation of this curriculum are depicted in the ways that César carried out his life and work:

- 1. Acceptance of all People** – 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.”
- 2. Celebrating 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.”
- 3. 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.”
- 4. 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 ... Nonviolence is hard work. It is the willingness to sacrifice. It is the patience to win.”
- 5. Innovation** – A creative capacity to find pragmatic strategies and tactics to resolve problems and situations that often seen insurmountable to others.
“A lasting organization is one in which people will continue to build, develop and move when you are not there.”
- 6. 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.”
- 7. 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.”

8. **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 [humanity], 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.”

9. **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.”

10. **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.”

Á

(1) http://www.cesarechavezfoundation.org/uploads/Si_Se_Puede_Curriculum_2009_-_High_School.pdf