



## **2025 NYSABE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST GRADES 3-12**

### **ESSAY CONTEST FOR MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS**

#### **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

An online application and essay written by a multilingual learner (MLL)/English language learner (ELL) is to be uploaded and submitted by **December 13, 2024**.

**To submit the online application and essay, go to:** <https://forms.gle/mkGoea7nR7TMFs6PA>

The New York State Association for Bilingual Education (NYSABE) proudly announces the 2024 Statewide Essay Contest for MLLs/ELLs in grades 3-12. All entries must be submitted online using the link above.

#### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

This contest is limited to MLLs/ELLs currently enrolled in bilingual and/or ENL/multilingual programs in New York State. Participants must write in English and another language.

#### **ESSAY PROMPT FOR GRADES 3-8**

Speaking, reading, and writing in two or more languages are important for our future. Write an essay about being bilingual and biliterate. Please address the following questions:

- What does being bilingual/multilingual and biliterate mean to you today and in the future?
- How does being bilingual/multilingual and biliterate benefit your community?
- How does being bilingual/multilingual and biliterate benefit our world?

#### **ESSAY PROMPT FOR GRADES 9-12**

In the 21st century, being able to effectively communicate in two or more languages is essential to being successful. Write an essay about the importance of being biliterate. Please address the following questions:

Why is being biliterate a valuable asset to our society?

- What are the advantages of being biliterate for you personally?
- How will these skills open new doors and provide opportunities for you as a member of our global society?

#### **ESSAY CRITERIA**

Essay must address the prompt to be eligible for consideration. The student's name **MUST NOT** appear on the essay. Teachers should assist students to ensure that essay submissions meet the following criteria:

- A. Development of the theme: originality and creativity
- B. Content and clarity of expression: standard grammar and mechanics

Entries may be submitted in the student's preferred language with a brief summary in the other language. Either the essay or the summary must be in English. Through the essay and summary, students will demonstrate their bilingualism and biliteracy practices.



- The essays must be within the following word limits:
  - Elementary Grades 3 – 5: 200 – 250 words
  - Intermediate Grades 6 – 8: 250 – 350 words
  - High School Grades 9 – 12: 350 – 500 words
- Record the word count total at the end of the essay and on the submission form.
- The essay should be typed and double-spaced; handwritten submissions must be legible, in ink, and doubled spaced.
- Only work done by an individual student will be accepted. No group entries will be considered.

### PRIZES/AWARDS

Winning entries may be published in NYSABE's *The Bilingual Times Newsletter*. First, second, and third place winners at each of the following grade clusters will be chosen: 3–5, 6–8, and 9–12.

- 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE WINNER: medal and gift of \$150.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE WINNER: medal and gift of \$100.00
- 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE WINNER: medal and a gift of \$50.00

The awards will be presented on **March 1, 2025**, at the Student Awards Session during **NYSABE's 47th Annual Conference** held in person at **The Saratoga Hilton, 534 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866**. Winners are strongly encouraged to be present at NYSABE's conference. Winners will be given the opportunity to read their essays during the conference.

Teachers should ensure that a student's submission reflect their best efforts and biliteracy practices.

### JUDGING

Once the submissions are received, a committee of judges will rate the entries based on a rubric. This committee will determine winners in each grade cluster. The committee's decisions are final. Winners will be notified by **January 3, 2025**.

### QUESTIONS

For further information please contact Denise Góñez-Santos and Ruthie Casillas at [NYSABEConference@gmail.com](mailto:NYSABEConference@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Dr. Eliezer Hernández  
NYSABE President 2024-2025

Denise Góñez-Santos  
NYSABE Student Essay and Arts Contest Committee Co-Chairperson 2024-2025

Ruthie Casillas  
NYSABE Student Essay and Arts Contest Committee Co-Chairperson 2024-2025