

# “Being Bilingual” Essay Contest

**Important notice to all elementary school, middle school, and high school students who are learning in two languages:**

The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) invites you to participate in its 28th Annual Nationwide Writing Contest for Bilingual Students.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS NOVEMBER 7, 2008**

## TOPICS

Write an essay on an experience related to being bilingual, choosing a theme from the list below:

- Growing Up Bilingual
- Learning in Two Languages
- Why I Want to Be Bilingual
- Proud to Be Bilingual
- The Power of Bilingualism
- My Future Bilingual Career

## CASH PRIZES

Grades 3-5: \$1,000 First Place Winner  
Grades 6-8: \$1,500 First Place Winner  
Grades 9-11: \$2,000 First Place Winner

## TRAVEL AWARDS

First Place student winners, along with their bilingual teacher and one parent or guardian, will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Austin, Texas to attend the NABE Conference Awards Luncheon on Thursday, February 19, 2009.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Participation in the contest is limited to students who are enrolled in a bilingual classroom, or in a classroom with native language support, or in a foreign language course.
- Participants must have a B average or better in academic grades and at least a 90% school attendance record.
- Previous winners are not eligible to participate.

## CRITERIA

Each essay will be judged on:

- (1) development of the theme – 10%;
- (2) originality – 20%;
- (3) content and clarity of expression – 45%; and
- (4) grammar and mechanics – 25%

## RULES

Only entries that comply with the following rules will be considered:

- **Language:** All essays must be written in English. But winners should be prepared to present their essays in both English and their native language at an awards ceremony during the NABE conference in Austin, Texas.
- **Subject:** All essays must address at least one of the themes listed under “TOPICS” above.
- **Length:** The number of words must be listed at the end of each essay. Lengths must be as follows:
  - Grades 3-5: 150-200 words
  - Grades 6-8: 250-350 words
  - Grades 9-11: 400-500 words
- **Format:** The essay must be handwritten neatly in ink or typed double-spaced.

- **Application:** An application form must be stapled to the essay, containing the name of the contestant, his/her native language; home address with ZIP code; telephone number with area code; grade level; name and address of school; name of bilingual teacher and school principal; and name of school district. Name should not appear on the essay. Applications require a teacher’s signature verifying that applicants meet the contest eligibility criteria.

- **Copyright:** All essays become the property of NABE and will not be returned. NABE reserves the right to publish all essays.

## ENTRY SUBMISSION

Send essay with entry form (reverse) to:  
NABE 2009  
1313 L Street N.W.  
Suite 210  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 898-1829

# Nationwide Writing Contest For Bilingual Students

## “Being Bilingual” Essay Contest

### A P P L I C A T I O N F O R M

#### Instructions:

1. Staple a copy of this form to each essay.
2. Names should not appear on the essay.
3. All application forms must be signed by the teacher.

Name of Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Native Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Bilingual Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

School Fax Number:(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School District: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that this student meets all eligibility criteria.

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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See reverse for rules and regulations.

