

Official Rules & Guidelines for NCSC's essay contest



The contest is sponsored by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).

1. The contest is open to 3rd-8th grade students in the United States. Students are assigned a different question for each age groups (3rd-5th graders, 6th-8th graders).
2. All entries must be uploaded in the form on NCSC's website. This is the preferred method of entry. However, hand-written essays may be submitted by mail to NCSC, c/o Deirdre Roesch, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, Va. 23185. Entries can also be submitted by posting them to Twitter or Facebook timeline with the hashtag #NCSCContest2015. If the hashtag is not included, your entry will not be accepted.
3. Each entry must answer the question that corresponds to the participant's grade level.
4. Essays should not exceed 100 words.
5. There is no entry fee.
6. Entries may be submitted through NCSC's website, Twitter feed or Facebook page starting on October 15, 2014. The deadline for submissions is 11:59 pm (EST, US) on Friday, February 27, 2015.
7. All portions of the online entry form must be completed when you upload your essay for it to be eligible.
8. The finalists will be judged by members of the National Center for State Courts on creativity, originality, overall quality and adherence to the theme. The decision of the judges is final.

Awards will be presented as follows:

3rd-5th grade age level

- One (1) First Place: \$100.00 Amazon gift card and a classroom set (30) of *Justice Case Files 4: The Case of the Broken Controller*
- One (1) Second Place: \$50 Amazon gift card and a classroom set (30) of *Justice Case Files 4: The Case of the Broken Controller*

- One (1) Third Place: \$25 Amazon gift card and a classroom set (30) of *Justice Case Files 4: The Case of the Broken Controller*

6th-8th grade age level

- One (1) First Place: \$100.00 Amazon gift card and a classroom set (30) of *Justice Case Files 5: The Case of Cyberbullying*
- One (1) Second Place: \$50 Amazon gift card and a classroom set (30) of *Justice Case Files 5: The Case of Cyberbullying*
- One (1) Third Place: \$25 Amazon gift card and a classroom set (30) of *Justice Case Files 5: The Case of Cyberbullying*

9. All entrants will receive honorable mention certificates and a copy one of NCSC's *Justice Case Files*. All winners will have their essays promoted on NCSC's website and social media outlets.
10. Entrants grant NCSC the right to use their names, photographs, statements, quotes and testimonials for advertising, publicity, and promotional purposes without notification or further compensation.
11. NCSC maintains the right to reproduce, reprint, distribute, perform, display, or exhibit the project for advertising, publicity, and promotional purposes on its website, at conferences, or at any other venues.
12. Entrants agree to be bound by the official contest rules and decisions of the judges. The failure to submit required information and forms, or any false statements or misrepresentations made by the entrant, shall constitute a violation of the official contest rules and subject the entrant's submission to immediate disqualification.