

useful info for students



**win one of
90 prizes**

**NINE \$5,000
CASH PRIZES**

**NINE \$2,500
CASH PRIZES**

**NINE \$1,250
CASH PRIZES**

The top 3 student winners from each of nine regions* also win an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., including an Awards Gala in Spring 2010!

63 additional cash prizes will be awarded

*For information on regions and complete Rules and Regulations, please visit www.BeinganAmerican.org/Rules.

THE QUESTION

What civic value do you believe is most essential to being an American? Trace the enduring importance of this value throughout the American story by discussing: a Founding document that reflects this value; a figure from American history who embodies this value; and examples of how you have and/or could put this value into practice.

THE ESSAY

Winning essays will completely adhere to the topic and fully answer the question. These essays approach the topic with original and lively prose. These essays contain a well-developed thesis, outstanding analysis, original ideas, and are very clearly organized and well-written.

Essays may be no longer than 750 words and must be submitted by a teacher-sponsor online by 11:59 pm EST on December 1, 2009. You must be in grades 9-12 to participate.

HOW TO ENTER

- Step 1: Go to www.BeinganAmerican.org/Student.
- Step 2: Read through the resources including past winning essays, pick your value, and write your essay.
- Step 3: Give your essay to your teacher so he/she can submit it at www.BeinganAmerican.org. Remember, your teacher can only submit a maximum of five essays.
- Step 4: You are finished!