

OFFICE OF MARY C. BARLOW
KERN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Division of Instructional Services
Advocates for Children

For KCSOS use only

Date Rec'd _____

Essay # _____

Score _____

**BANK OF AMERICA ESSAY AND SPEECH CONTEST
NOMINATION FORM – 2017-2018**

ATTACH THIS FORM TO THE ESSAY. Essays must be submitted to Teresa Twisselman, at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield, 5th Floor, before 5:00 p.m., on **Wednesday, April 4, 2018**.

STUDENT'S NAME _____ GRADE _____

SCHOOL _____ DISTRICT _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____ CITY & ZIP _____

PRINCIPAL _____ SCHOOL PHONE _____

PRINCIPAL'S EMAIL _____

SCHOOL FAX NUMBER _____

A. The guidelines for the essay nomination process are as follows:

1. Students write informational/explanatory essays using the topic/time/reference guidelines listed under section B (below) and the information in section A on reverse side.
2. Each participating school selects and submits (nominates) one essay at each grade level (4th, 5th, & 6th).
3. This nomination form must be completed and stapled as the cover for each essay submitted.

PLEASE NO NAMES ON ESSAY PAGES - CONTESTANT'S NAME SHOULD BE ON THIS COVER PAGE ONLY.

4. **Essays may be typed by the student or hand written in black or blue ink on binder paper.**
5. **The essays must be submitted to Teresa Twisselman, at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, before 5:00 p.m., on Wednesday, April 4, 2018. Mail to: 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301 or hand deliver to Teresa on the 5th Floor.**
6. Essays will be judged and ranked by an evaluation panel; writers of the top essays (approximately 8–12 at each grade level) will be invited to present their essays as speeches in the event final on **May 10, 2018**.
7. The criteria for judging the essays are as follows: (100 points total)

Organization (Writing Standards 2, 4):	20 points
Content (Writing Standards 2, 5):	40 points
Voice (Writing Standard 4):	10 points
References, minimum 3 (Writing Standards 7, 8):	20 points
Mechanics (Language Standards 1, 2, and 3):	10 points

8. **RETAIN A COPY OF YOUR ESSAY AND A COPY OF THIS FORM; submitted essays will not be returned.**

B. The guidelines for the speech contest are as follows:

1. **Topic: Water Resources: Where are we now? What does the future hold?**
2. **Focus/Purpose:** To inform or explain. A speech to inform imparts information on a specific subject. It is expected that the information presented in these speeches is found through research on the topic.
3. This speech should **not** be a dramatic, theatrical performance, and should **not** include singing or choreography. Points will be deducted for a violation of this guideline.
4. **Time:** 3 minutes MINIMUM . . . 5 minutes MAXIMUM
5. Memorization is encouraged, however, note cards may be used.
6. No props or costumes may be used.
7. Student is not to state his/her name or school in the presentation.
8. The criteria for judging the speech contest are as follows: (100 points total)

Organization:	20 points	Poise:	15 points
Content:	30 points	Delivery:	20 points
References: (minimum 3)	15 points	Potential Deductions: (rules 3-7)	5 points each

I HAVE READ THE ATTACHED ESSAY; IT CONFORMS TO THE GUIDELINES LISTED ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS FORM.

Student's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Teacher/Coach's Signature: _____

Principal's Signature: _____

BANK OF AMERICA ESSAY AND SPEECH CONTEST – 2017-2018

The Bank of America Essay/Speech Contest is for 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. **Each participating school may nominate one essay at each grade (4th, 5th, 6th).** There are no regional level contests.

A. INSTRUCTIONS for Students – Topic: Water Resources: Where are we now? What does the future hold? Write a research-based, informational essay/speech that addresses this topic, based on your research and your own experience. An informational essay/speech is written to inform the audience about the writer’s understanding of the topic based on personal knowledge and research completed. The structure of the informational essay is first to frame the central issue, then include facts and details for focus using information from your own experience and a variety of sources. Be sure to cite, in the context of the essay/speech (see examples below), at least three different sources you used in your research. Sources may include personal interviews, articles, reference and other books. Please be careful when choosing internet resources. **Essays may be typed or hand written in black or blue ink on binder paper.**

Essays/speeches do not require formal footnotes and/or bibliographies, but students must cite at least three different sources in the body of the essay/speech. This should be done in narrative form, e.g., “The Encyclopedia Britannica, 2009 edition, lists...” “On October 4, 2006, an NBC newscaster noted...” or “John Jones, in his article ‘Global Warming’ stated...”

B. TO THE TEACHER: The essay/speech contest is an opportunity for students to practice and perfect their language arts skills in the areas of research, expository writing, and public speaking. Essays and speeches should demonstrate proficiency of the CA Common Core State Standards for writing and presenting informational/explanatory reports. Writing Standard 2, for each grade level, addresses writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly. Writing standards 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 also support the development of an informative/explanatory essay/speech. Speaking and Listening Standards 4 and 6 are addressed by the presentation of this knowledge. If essays/speeches are presented in classrooms, Speaking and Listening standards 2 and 3 may be addressed as audience members evaluate and summarize information presented. For information regarding these standards refer to the Common Core State Standards for English/Language Arts, History/Social Studies and Science and Technical Subjects found at www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/.

Please be sure the student reads and follows the guidelines for this essay/speech contest (in A and B above and on the other side of this form).

C. The schedule for the Bank of America Speech Contest and Awards Presentation is as follows: Competition for grades 4, 5, and 6 will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, 2018, at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, Larry E. Reider Education Center, 2000 K Street, Bakersfield, CA.** Students will check-in between 6:00 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. in their competition rooms. A reception and award presentation for all finalists and guests will be held following the competition in Room 101.

D. Bank of America will award a \$45 Russo’s Books gift card for the first place winner, a \$30 Russo’s Books gift card for the second place winner, and a \$15 Russo’s Books gift card for the third place winner at each grade level. Each student who is invited to and participates in the speech contest will receive a trophy at the awards presentation.

Note to Parents and Educators: *The news media may elect to cover all or part of this event, which can include photos, video or text that identifies and may quote the child/student. This news coverage may appear in newspapers, newsletters, on television, radio or other publicly circulated communications. State law permits media access to student competitions and often helps highlight the many wonderful students we have in our county.*

For additional information, contact Teresa Twisselman, English-Language Arts Coordinator, at (661) 636-4645 or Christine Goedhart-Humphrey, Student Events Coordinator, at (661) 636-4330.