



## Kern County Superintendent of School Speech and Essay Writing Contest

The KCSOS Speech and Essay Writing 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.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS**

Write an 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. 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, websites, reference and other books. **Essays may be typed or handwritten in black or blue ink on binder paper.**

Essays/speeches do not require formal footnotes and/or bibliographies, but students may cite up to 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..."

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS:**

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/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/).

**Please be sure the student reads and follows the guidelines for this essay/speech contest.**

### **AWARDS**

Each student winner from each grade (1st, 2nd and 3rd place) 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 Ryan Murry at (661) 636-4420 or [rymurry@kern.org](mailto:rymurry@kern.org).