

Pulitzer Center Essay Contest for Spring 2009

The Pulitzer Center and Civitas are jointly sponsoring an **essay contest** related to the upcoming “Women and Children in Crisis” project. There can be numerous “winners,” potentially two from each participating school and two from the student community at-large.

Here’s vital information that students need to know:

1. **Title:** Pulitzer Center Essay Contest for Spring 2009
2. **Topic:** What are the similarities and differences between the issues of abuse and violence towards women and children in our local community and those in countries such as Nepal, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Iraq? Be sure to address what services and programs are available or lacking for women and children in each setting.
3. **Length:** The essay should be approximately 500 words long.
4. **Deadline:** The deadline for submission is Friday, May 1, 2009
5. **Awards:**
 - Best essay by a senior from each school: **\$50.00**
 - Best essay by an undergraduate from each school: **\$50.00**
 - The **undergraduate** winners must agree to be “**Pulitzer Ambassadors**” for their next school year (see below what this entails)
 - _____
 - Best essay from all schools by a senior: **\$250.00**
 - Best essay from all schools by an underclassperson: **\$250.00**
 - This **undergraduate** winner must agree to be a “**Pulitzer Fellow**” for the program at-large next year (see below what this entails)

Winners also receive:

All winners receive an embossed and signed certificate from the Pulitzer Center (with Civitas recognition as co-sponsor and co-signer of the certificate), plus the cash prize, a one-year position of leadership, and will have their essays featured on the Pulitzer Center and Civitas websites.

6. Resources:

- **For local information:** Civitas will provide a list of local agencies familiar with issues of abuse and/or violence towards women by Monday, April 6. In addition, Civitas staff will be available to help students contact agencies actively involved in addressing the issues of support for women and children in crisis.

- **For international information:** The Pulitzer web portal on “Women & Children in Crisis” will “go live” week of April 6. Shortly thereafter, students can begin blogging with journalists. The visits by the journalists, April 20-22, will provide exceptional opportunities for students to further enhance their knowledge.

7. Judging:

- **For each school:** One of the following will read and “judge” the submitted essays: (a) Sponsoring teacher at the school [if teacher is willing to take on this responsibility], (b) Civitas staff [if teacher would prefer not to judge or if there is no active faculty advisor in the school]
- **For St. Louis area:** [from winning essays at each school]: Pulitzer staff

Pulitzer Ambassadors (junior, sophomore, or freshman winner from each school):

- 1) Learn about future project’s web portal at the same time that teachers do. Use their knowledge to encourage and help other students access the site.
- 2) Be asked to spend time “up front” familiarizing themselves with content on the web site and passing along information to fellow students.
- 3) Help teachers with logistics such as:
 - a. Recruiting students or classes to participate in the program.
 - b. Joining teachers in approaching other teachers to allow students in their classes to participate.
 - c. If a school is hosting, a Pulitzer ambassador could help a teacher in lining up space for the presentation and maybe with A/V issues.
- 4) Pulitzer ambassador could write reports to be published on Pulitzer and Civitas web sites about their school’s participation in each project.

Pulitzer Fellow (area-wide winner [junior, sophomore, or freshman]):

- 1) Help provide resources for Pulitzer Ambassadors at each school.
- 2) Receive advance information on projects and help with preliminary research.
- 3) Work with Civitas in promoting Pulitzer programs to students at discussion groups, in newsletter, etc.
- 4) Help incorporate information about our local community into themes for future Global Gateway projects.

So, Mark, you may want to print this information out for students. We will have a link to it on our website by noon today and will include it in subsequent Tuesday Civitas e-newsletters.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to write or call. This is a wonderful opportunity for students, but we don't want it to be at the expense of valuable time for you. If you prefer for us to work with a student in your school to coordinate the project, just let us know. -- Arthur

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