

## 2008 Countdown to Election Day Essay Contest

### Terms & Conditions :: Rules and Regulations

#### HOW TO ENTER:

Log on to the 2008 Countdown to Election Day Essay Contest Web site at [www.vantagelearning.com/contests/2008\\_election/](http://www.vantagelearning.com/contests/2008_election/) to complete the 2008 Countdown to Election Day Essay Contest (the "Contest") entry form and to enter. You must be between the ages of 8 and 18 years at the time of entry. All students under the age of 18 must have parent/guardian and/or teacher consent. You will have to complete an essay based on a predefined topic. The full essay topic will be posted on the Contest [www.vantagelearning.com/contests/2008\\_election/](http://www.vantagelearning.com/contests/2008_election/). You may create and submit your essay under the supervision of a parent or teacher; however, you must be the sole and independent author of your essay. You must submit your essay on the Contest entry web page.

The Contest runs from September 16, 2008 through 11:59 PST, November 4, 2008. Entries can be submitted via the Contest Web site only. You may only enter once, and any additional entries will not be eligible. Entries submitted after 11:59 PST, November 4, 2007 will not be accepted.

The Contest is sponsored by *MY Access!*®, *Vantage Learning*, and *Intellimetric*, 110 Terry Drive, Suite 100, Newtown, PA 18940 (the "Sponsors").

#### HOW TO WIN:

No purchase necessary. To enter, you must submit your essay on the Contest entry page. To be eligible to win, you must be between the ages of 8 and 18 at the time of entry and your essay must answer the Contest topic posted on the Contest Web site for your grade level. From the eligible entries received, 9 Prize Winners will be selected by the panel of judges selected by the Sponsors, which consists of professional writers, teachers, and Vantage staff members. Upon submission, student essays will be scored by *Intellimetric*®, the "gold-standard" in automated essay scoring used by over 1,000,000 students worldwide.

Students will receive immediate feedback including:

- A holistic score on a 6 point scale
- Scores in each of the common domains of writing (Focus, Organization, Development, Mechanics, Grammar, Voice, and Language Use)
- Suggestions on how they can improve their writing.

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Winners in each category will be determined by:

1. The preliminary score provided by *Intellimetric*®
2. Final judging round by a panel of writing experts

Winners will be notified by email and announced on this website on or about November 14, 2008. The winning essays, entrant's first names only, and the names of the schools of the winners and selected

outstanding essays may be posted on the Contest Web site.

**PRIZES:**

Prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Elementary, Middle, and High School categories

1. First place - \$250
2. Second place - \$150
3. Third place - \$100

Additionally, each winner will receive a 1 year subscription to MY Access!<sup>®</sup> Home Edition, a 1-year license of CorrectEnglish Personal Edition, and 30 licenses of MY Access! School Edition for their school\*.

Total Prizes valued at over \$5,365

*\* In lieu of MY Access! School Edition licenses, Homeschool students will receive 2 additional subscriptions of MY Access! Home Edition to distribute to their homeschool group or a recipient of their choosing.*

**GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

Any federal, state and local taxes, fees and surcharges on prizes won will be the sole responsibility of the winner. Entry forms, including essays, will be solely the Sponsor's property and will not be acknowledged or returned. The Sponsors are not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, incomplete, or illegible entries. The Sponsors are not responsible for any claims, injuries, losses or damages of any kind resulting from Contest participation; the awarding, acceptance, use, misuse, possession, loss or misdirection of the prize; participation in any prize-related activity; or from computer malfunction. Sponsor's decisions are final and non-appealable. Entrants agree that acceptance of any prize constitutes the grant to Sponsor of an unconditional right to use the winners' first name, and essays for any promotion, publicity, marketing, and advertisement; to provide winners' names to students' school or community education group; and to release the winners' first names and addresses (city and state only) upon written request. However, the possibility of winning is not affected by the withholding of permission to use such information. This Contest is governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with venue in Bucks County, PA.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

The Contest is open to all legal residents of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia between the ages of 8 and 18 at the time of entry, except where prohibited by law. Employees Vantage Technologies and all Vantage Technology holdings, and their immediate family members and persons living in the same household of such individuals are not eligible. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Void where prohibited.

**DISQUALIFICATION:**

Sponsors reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to disqualify any person tampering with the entry process, or otherwise in violation of these Contest rules. Sponsors further reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to cancel, suspend, terminate or modify the Contest if not capable of completion as planned,

including due to force majeure, technical corruption, or any other causes beyond Sponsors control that corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the Contest.

**RELEASE AND INDEMNITY:**

By participating in the Contest, entrant individually, or by and through his or her adult parent/guardian and/or teacher, agrees to release, discharge and hold harmless Sponsors from and against any and all claims, liability for any injury, including but not limited to personal injury, bodily injury (including without limitation wrongful death or disability), property damage, or loss or damage of any other kind arising in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from delivery, non-delivery, acceptance, participation or use of a prize, or from participation in this Contest, or any contest-related activity, whether or not such injury, loss or damage arises in whole or in part from the negligence of Sponsor, its affiliates, subsidiaries, and agencies and their respective directors, officers, employees and agents and any and all Internet servers and access providers from any and all liability with respect to the prize won and participation in the Contest.

Entrant individually, or by and through his or her adult parent/guardian and/or teacher, further agrees that s/he shall pay and indemnify and hold Sponsors and its grantors, officers, trustees, assignees, agents, licensees, and employees harmless from and against all claims, losses, costs, expenses, settlements, demands, and liabilities of every kind, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, arising out of or incurred by reason of the use of the name submitted with the entry, the content of the entry, or the inaccuracy, alleged breach, or actual breach of any representation, warranty, covenant, agreement, or undertaking entrant has made herein.

Sponsors will not be held responsible for any technical difficulties of the site.

For a complete list of winners' first names and city/town of residence, send request with a separate self-addressed envelope to "2008 Countdown to Election Day Essay Contest," c/o Vantage Learning, 110 Terry Drive, Newtown, PA 18940.

**Agreement Not to Sell:**

By participating in the Contest, entrant individually, or by and through his or her adult parent/guardian and/or teacher, agrees not to sell and of the prize winnings. All Prizes are nontransferable and no substitutions allowed except by the Sponsor who reserves the right to award a prize of equal or greater value if advertised prize is unavailable. Prizes are not redeemable for cash. One (1) prize per household.

**Intellectual Property Rights:**

By participating in the Contest, entrant individually, or by and through his or her adult parent/guardian and/or teacher ("Entrant"), understands and acknowledges that Vantage exclusively holds all right, title, and intellectual property interests ("Exclusive Ownership Interest") in any and all proprietary software, software systems and materials, including, but not limited to, the following: any software or software systems developed in connection with the delivery of Services; and, all associated, related or ancillary software, materials, techniques, algorithms, processes used by the entrant in connection with delivery

of the prizes; and, further, entrant understands and acknowledges that Vantage exclusively holds Exclusive Ownership Interest, as well, in any literacy works, pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works, architectural works, works of visual arts, and any other work whether or not the subject matter of copyright protection; advertising and marketing concepts; information; data; client or customer information; formulas; designs; models/ drawings; computer programs; including all documentation, related listings, design specifications, and flowcharts, trade secrets, and any inventions, innovations or methods including all processes, machines, manufactures and compositions of matter and any other invention that may or may not be the subject matter of patent protection; and all statutory protection obtained or obtainable thereon (collectively “Developments”) and that nothing in this or any other Agreement between the Parties shall alter or modify, in any form whatever, Vantage’s present or future and Exclusive Ownership Interest in any such Developments.

## **COPPA COMPLIANCE**

Q: What is the COPPA?

A: The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (COPPA) governs the online collection of personal information from children under 13. To see the full COPPA law, please go to [www.coppa.org](http://www.coppa.org).

Q: What kind of information is collected?

A: The web site asks that entrants enter first and last names, their age, and their school name to determine the prompt to which they will write, to track entries, and to help identify contest winners. Additionally, entrants are asked to enter an essay on a predetermined topic.

We also ask entrants to enter their e-mail address for the purpose of notifying entrants of their score, and notifying winners of the contest.

Q: What kind of protections are there for children under 13?

A: Before a user may enter the contest, they must indicate whether they are under 18. If a child indicates that they are under 18, consent to enter the contest must be given by a parent/guardian and/or a teacher (in loco parentis) and an email address for the consenting adult must be supplied.

The web site does not allow children under 13 to enter their e-mail address.

Q: With whom do you share your data?

A: We will not share entrant information, or the information of the consenting adult, with anyone with the exception of sharing the first name only of the contest winner on this website. Data collected will be used for internal purposes only. Entrant data for students under 18 will only be used by Vantage Learning and the contest sponsors in regard to communications regarding the contest. Data collected on consenting adults and entrants ages 18 and older will not be shared with outside parties, but may be used by Vantage Learning and the contest sponsors in regard to communications regarding the contest, and for potential future marketing purposes.