

2021 Echoes Media Student Writing Contest Guidelines

Deadline: Saturday, April 16, 2021

1. The *2021 uSpeak Writing Contest* is open to U.S. students in 9th through 12th grade.
2. Each submission must respond to one of the following prompts. Although each contains many questions, they are meant to provoke your thoughts.
 - So often we see discrimination in action, but we don't know how to respond in real time. Think of a time you witnessed or experienced discrimination. If you could go back to that time, what would you say or do? Would you intervene to stop the discrimination? Why or why not? Would you comfort the person being discriminated against? Why or why not? In general, what should we do to respond to discrimination?
 - Words have a lot of power. Even in times of conflict and disagreement, our words can shift the situation for the better. Think about a time you experienced or witnessed the power of words in the midst of conflict. How can language and conversation soothe tensions, share perspectives, bring agreement and bring people together?
 - In 2020, the coronavirus and Black Lives Matter protests shined a light on vulnerable populations and discrimination against minority populations. These events prompted many to declare themselves allies and to seek ways to create empathy and equity. In what ways have you seen this done most successfully and what ways done least successful? Why is it important to advocate for others? How can we speak up for others without speaking over them?
3. Limit one entry per student. Submissions must be the original work of a single student. Previous winners are ineligible. No group entries allowed. Work submitted without a name will be disqualified.
4. If handwritten, all documents **must be legible**.

5. Entrants have the option of submitting their entry online. The entry must be .pdf, .doc, or .docx and **must include a signed entry form**. All digital entries must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, April 16, 2021, at www.echoesofthestruggle.com/contests.
6. For hard copy entries, all mailed entries **must include a completed entry form** or they will be disqualified. Entries must arrive no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, April 16, 2021, and should be directed to:

Echoes Media
c/o Janelle Gray
2919 Commerce St. Ste. 131
Dallas, TX 75226
7. Echoes Media staff will notify both the winner and parents of the winner no later than Friday, May 7, 2021, via a phone call and/or email.
8. The 1st place winner will receive a \$100 prize from Echoes Media and have their article published on The Echoes Blog on the Echoes Media website.
9. By entering the contest, you consent to have your name and photograph appear as the winner. You also agree to allow your words to be used as quotes and on Echoes Media's website and social media even if not selected as a winner.
10. For more information about the contest, please contact Janelle Gray at echoes@echoesofthestruggle.com.

The contest is judged by senior members of Echoes Media: Janelle Gray, Melissa Mains, Nicole Nesbitt, Jack Piland, and Chris Silverberg.

A winning submission would consider the following:

Have a word count between 800-1100 words
Address the chosen prompt in its entirety
Have an organized storytelling format
Be thoughtful and respectful
Have no politics
Use good grammar and spelling