

Better Business Bureau®

Laws of Life

Essay Contest

RECOGNITION

Publication and Cash Prizes

Two 6th grade winners	\$250/each
Two 7th grade winners	\$250/each
Two 8th grade winners	\$250/each
Two High School winners	\$500/each
Drawing Winner	\$500

**Deadline March 22, 2017*

WHAT is the Laws of Life Essay Contest?

The *Laws of Life Essay Contest* is one of BBB's Future Workforce programs aimed at developing the character of today's student so they become the ethical, responsible, and trustworthy employees and citizens of tomorrow.

This academic activity encourages a dialogue between students, teachers, parents and community members to advance positive, universal ethical principles (*Laws of Life*), such as respect, courage, responsibility, honesty, and integrity. The contest invites students to challenge themselves to consider their personal values. Key to judging the essays is the demonstrated thought process and introspection of the student. Thus, we encourage students with a broad spectrum of writing and artistic skills to participate.

WHY

The BBB Foundation believes that strong character and values are developed at an early age and encourages their discussion and consideration in school-age children.

For Schools, the benefits of *Laws of Life* are numerous:

- ◇ Inspires young people of all ages to discover for themselves the core values, principles, and ideals that will guide them, wherever they go and whatever they do in life.
- ◇ Provides schools with an effective, easy-to-implement character-based program that gives students an authentic purpose for writing.
- ◇ Provides teachers with the opportunity to get to know their students better, improving classroom climate and relationships.
- ◇ Provides an opportunity for writing a "personal narrative," a component of many state academic content standards.
- ◇ Provides practice for state, SAT, and ACT writing tests as well as college entrance essays.
- ◇ Builds stronger community — school ties by enabling educators and community members to work side by side on a positive and affirming activity.
- ◇ Encourages parents and children to talk about what really matters in life.
- ◇ Recognition from winning a *Laws of Life Essay Contest* can be life-changing.
- ◇ Help students develop empathy, compassion and self-confidence.
- ◇ Drawing helps students to express in a different way, as well as to demonstrate multiple feelings, emotions, and thoughts.

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HOW

Students in grades 6th to 12th should select one of the ethical traits, **respect, courage, responsibility, honesty, or integrity**, that guides their lives and behavior.

ESSAY

- Essays can be about how they learned the importance of the trait, how they live by it, or why it is important to them. There is no prescribed prompt, but the following may be useful to get students thinking:
 - ◇ Describe an incident or event from which you learned a lesson “the hard way.”
 - ◇ Describe a personal experience that has helped you develop your law(s) of life.
 - ◇ What could you change about yourself to become a better person?
 - ◇ Describe a time in your life when someone has helped you learn the importance of an ethical trait.
- Essays may be no more than 3 double-spaced typed pages.
- Judging is based primarily on content and will consider if the essay is focused, purposeful, and reflects clearly the ideas of the student, according to the grade level.

****Essay and entry form should be scanned and emailed to cce@bbbelpaso.org in pdf format. MUST include the student's name and school on the essay (this information will be removed for judging purposes).***

****All entries will receive a confirmation back to the email from which they are sent. If you do not receive confirmation, please contact Karla Garcia at cce@bbbelpaso.org.***

DRAWING

- Student must be the creator of the original art submitted to the competition.
- Art entries should be on an 8.5 x 11-inch sheet white paper.
- There is no restriction on the drawing techniques used (i.e. oil, water-color, pastel, graphite, ink, colored pencil, charcoal, etc.).
- Drawings will be judged based on interpretation of the traits and originality.

****Drawings must have the student's name on the back and may be sent or delivered to the BBB at 550 E. Paisano Dr. El Paso, TX 79901. Entries MUST be accompanied by a complete and signed entry form.***

****All entries will receive a confirmation back to the email on the entry form. If you do not receive confirmation, please contact Karla Garcia at cce@bbbelpaso.org.***

JUDGING

An independent panel of judges (BBB volunteers and community members) will select essay winners (2 per grade and 2 from high school entries) and one drawing.

Winners will be announced by May 5, 2017, and will be invited to the BBB Torch Awards on May 24th, with the teacher and a parent.





Better Business Bureau Paso del Norte 2017 ENTRY FORM ESSAY

Deadline: March 22, 2017. No late entries accepted.

SCHOOL TEACHER: This completed form must accompany each essay entry. Please scan and email in pdf format the completed form and essay to CCE@bbbelpaso.org. The student's name should be on the essays. Essays must be typed. The student's parents/legal guardian must sign this form.

Student: First Last

Grade: Gender: Email:

School:

School Address:

City: Zip:

Teacher's Name: First Last

Teacher's Phone Number: Email:

ESSAY TITLE:

Which Law (s) of Life does the essay address?

Student's home address (for finalist notification): Street

City State Zip Phone Number

Essayist: By signing this form, you confirm the essay is your work. You (and your parent or legal guardian) also give BBB Center for Character Ethics permission to use your essay at their discretion to publicize and promote the contest including posting it to the website. You (and your parent/legal guardian) also give your permission for any picture, audio or video recording of the awards ceremony to be used for publicity or promotion of the contest. Your personal information will not be given outside Better Business Bureau.

Please select one:

- If my essay is used in any way, you may include my full name with it
If my essay is used in any way, you may not include my full name with it

Parent/Legal Guardian must sign form

Student's signature:

Parent/legal guardian signature:

BBB use only: ASSIGNED NUMBER



Better Business Bureau Paso del Norte 2017 ENTRY FORM **DRAWING**

Deadline: March 22, 2017. No late entries accepted.

SCHOOL TEACHER: This completed form must accompany each drawing entry. Artwork and accompanying entry form may be delivered to the BBB or mailed. If mailing, paper clip the entry form and the artwork. The student's name should be on the back of the drawing. **The student's parents/legal guardian must sign this form.**

Student: _____
First Last

Grade: _____ Gender: _____ Email: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Teacher's Name: _____
First Last

Teacher's Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

DRAWING TITLE: _____

Which Law (s) of Life does the drawing address? _____

Student's home address (for finalist notification): _____
Street

City State Zip Phone Number

Artist: By signing this form, you confirm the drawing is **your work**. You (and your parent or legal guardian) also give BBB Center for Character Ethics permission to use your drawing at their discretion to publicize and promote the contest including posting it to the website. You (and your parent/legal guardian) also give your permission for any picture, audio or video recording of the awards ceremony to be used for publicity or promotion of the contest. Your personal information will not be given to anyone outside Better Business Bureau.

Please select one:

- If my drawing is used in any way, you may include my full name with it
- If my drawing is used in any way, you may **not** include my full name with it

**Parent/Legal Guardian
must sign form**

Student's signature: _____

Parent/legal guardian signature: _____

BBB use only: ASSIGNED NUMBER _____