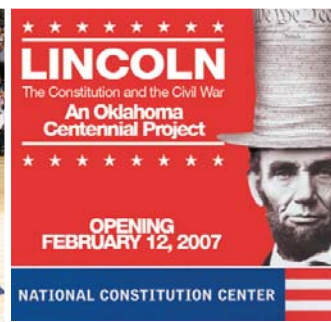


OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

2007 ESSAY CONTEST



HORNETS
Believe

THE OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM is pleased to announce its sixth annual essay contest. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln said, "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it." Offered in conjunction with *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, a special exhibit created by the National Constitution Center opening at the Memorial on February 12, 2007, this year's contest highlights Lincoln's words on the importance of personal responsibility.

First place winners in each category will receive a weekend trip to Washington, DC, to tour the Lincoln Memorial and attend the New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets/Washington Wizards basketball game. All winners will be recognized at the Hornets/Seattle Supersonics game on April 4, 2007, at the Ford Center.

ESSAY TOPICS

5TH AND 6TH GRADES: "I WANT IN ALL CASES TO DO RIGHT." – *Abraham Lincoln*

Abraham Lincoln was always concerned with doing what was right, even if it was not popular with everyone else. Describe an experience when you went "against the crowd" because you knew it was the right thing to do. How did others around you react? In the end, how did you feel about yourself?

7TH AND 8TH GRADES: "STAND WITH ANYBODY THAT STANDS RIGHT. STAND WITH HIM WHILE HE IS RIGHT AND PART WITH HIM WHEN HE GOES WRONG." – *Abraham Lincoln*

Each and every day we are faced with situations in which we have to make decisions to go *with* the crowd or *against* the crowd. Describe a time when you had to confront someone close to you and you stood *with* the person in his/her decision because you knew it was the right thing to do. Or, describe a situation when you had to tell someone who was very close to you that you would not follow what he/she was doing because the person was doing the wrong thing. In either situation, how did others react to your decision? How did you feel?

9TH AND 10TH GRADES: "CHARACTER IS LIKE A TREE AND REPUTATION LIKE ITS SHADOW. THE SHADOW IS WHAT WE THINK OF IT; THE TREE IS THE REAL THING." – *Abraham Lincoln*

What is a reputation? How important is having character? What does one's reputation say about that person? Think of someone that you admire. What is the person's reputation? How did the person earn this good reputation of having a strong character? Is it easy to earn a good reputation or is it difficult? Why? How does this person you have selected influence others, and even you?

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memorial.org

OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

2007 ESSAY CONTEST

11TH AND 12TH GRADES: *THE PROBABILITY THAT WE MAY FALL IN THE STRUGGLE OUGHT NOT TO DETER US FROM THE SUPPORT OF A CAUSE WE BELIEVE TO BE JUST; IT SHALL NOT DETER ME.* – *Abraham Lincoln*

Based on your experiences in high school, choose a situation in which you had to act on your decision to “be just” because you knew it was the right thing to do. Explain how your passion caused you to remain steadfast in your struggle. Expand on your feelings of knowing you might fail. Why did you not give up? In the end, what was the outcome? If you did not succeed, would you still consider your cause a failure? If you did succeed, what kept you strong and determined?

RECOGNITION First place winners in each category will travel with a parent or guardian to Washington, DC, for a special tour of the Lincoln Memorial and recognition at the New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets/Washington Wizards basketball game on March 17. All winners will be recognized at the Hornets basketball game with the Seattle SuperSonics on April 4, 2007, at the Ford Center. As a condition of being awarded any prize, each winner (*and a parent or legal guardian of each winner that is a minor*) will be required to execute and deliver to the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum and the New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets a release of liability and a publicity release.

CATEGORIES	Elementary	Grades 5-6	Suggested word count: 350 words
	Middle School	Grades 7-8	Suggested word count: 350 words
	High School	Grades 9-10	Suggested word count: 500 words
	High School	Grades 11-12	Suggested word count: 500 words

PRIZES First Place Winners in each category Washington, DC trip

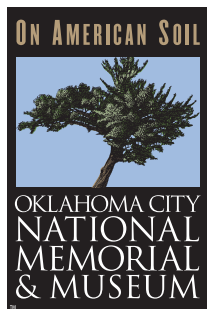
1st Prize	\$100
2nd Prize	\$ 75
3rd Prize	\$ 50

Prizes awarded in each category

SUBMISSION Entries must be typed or word – processed, double-spaces. Teachers may submit up to five entries per grade per school. Entries may be submitted by mail, email (lr@oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org) or hand delivered to the Memorial at 620 N Harvey Ave. *Each entry must be accompanied by a signed release form. All entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 1, 2007.* If you are emailing your essays, please fax the release form to 405.235.3315.

JUDGING Essays will be judged by educators and community leaders. Names will be removed from essays during the judging process. The decision of the judges is final.

CRITERIA Essays will be judged on originality, adherence to topic, and proper grammar, spelling and punctuation.



OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

2007 ESSAY CONTEST RELEASE

CONTACT INFORMATION

Student Name _____ Grade _____

School _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Teacher Name _____ School Telephone (_____) _____

RELEASE

I hereby declare this essay is my original work. I understand that this essay will be accessible in the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum and may be used for exhibits. I understand that essays may be edited for length or format. I hereby consent to the unrestricted use of the information in furtherance of the educational mission of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. I agree that I am not entitled to any compensation, royalty or other economic benefit for such usage and that the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum is the owner of all right, title and interest in and to any materials in which the essay is used.

Student Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Phone or email address _____

THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR ESSAY.

Return form to: Lynne Roller, Deputy Director
Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum
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Oklahoma City, OK 73101
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lr@oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org