

“COURAGE IN MY COMMUNITY” ESSAY CONTEST COMPLETE RULES

Cambium Learning Technologies (CLT) and The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum, Inc. are pleased to present the 2011-2012 “Courage in My Community” Essay Contest.

The “Courage in My Community” Essay Contest was developed by CLT with guidance from program leadership at The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum. It is designed to actively engage students in the reading and writing process while deepening their understanding of the role courage plays in their community. This is achieved through reading personal essays written by peers participating in The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum in Boston and culminating with students writing their own essays about courage.

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

ELIGIBILITY

- The “Courage in My Community” Essay Contest is open to all students in grades 5-8 in the United States.
- There is no limit on the number of essays a school may submit, but submissions are limited to one essay per student.
- Essays are limited to two or fewer pages.
- Essays can be submitted any time until February 10, 2012 at www.courageinmycommunity.com. Both the essay and student consent form must be submitted together.
- Students participating in The Max Warburg Courage curriculum’s annual essay competition are not eligible to participate in the “Courage in My Community” Essay Contest.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE INCLUDED ON EACH ESSAY

- Student’s name
- Student’s grade level
- Teacher’s name, email address and telephone number
- School name
- School district, city, state

PHOTOGRAPHS (OPTIONAL)

Each essay may be accompanied by a digital photograph of the author in one of the following formats: JPG, TIF, or BMP. File size may not exceed 500 kb. Photos will only be accepted via online submission.

CONSENT FORM

All essays must be accompanied by a student release form and may only be submitted online. The release form can be downloaded at <http://www.courageinmycommunity.com/docs/CCReleaseForm.pdf>.

DEADLINE

The deadline for essay submission is midnight on February 10, 2012.

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL ESSAY?

Each essay will be evaluated on the student's ability to find and express his or her own voice in a formal essay that clearly demonstrates their understanding of the nature of courage and how it is manifested in his or her life or community.

Student essays should reflect each child's own experience and give expression to their perception of the role of courage in their lives and/or community. Some students will choose to write about themselves while others may choose to write about members of their family or friends. The essays should represent a true experience, expressed in the student's voice.

The goals of this collaboration include engaging students in the reading and writing process, encouraging students to write about their personal experiences with courage, integrating technology with English Language Arts curricula, and promoting The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum. We encourage teachers to take part in the contest by working with their students on their essays.

ESSAY JUDGING AND AWARDS

Essays submitted to the "Courage in My Community" Essay Contest will be carefully reviewed by a panel of authors, journalists, educators, and community members. The final judging coincides with The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum's annual "Courage in My Life" essay judging hosted in early March in Boston. One winner will be announced in late March.

GRAND PRIZE FOR THE SCHOOL THAT SUBMITS THE WINNING ESSAY

- A half-day training on The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum
- A half-day training on *Kurzweil 3000*
- *Kurzweil 3000* Learning Lab Pack, valued at more than \$3,000

GRAND PRIZE FOR THE STUDENT WHO SUBMITS THE WINNING ESSAY

- A special ceremony at his or her school (date and time to be decided at a later date)
- A *Kurzweil 3000* USB Professional Color edition
- An iPod® Touch

GRAND PRIZE FOR THE TEACHER WHO SUBMITS THE WINNING ESSAY

- A Kindle 3G

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained by sending an email to essaylibrary@cambiumlearning.com.

Participation in the contest, and all necessary materials, is free of charge and does not require specific software or systems.