

Official Essay Contest Enrollment Form

Essay Contest for 2015 Young Readers Program

*Presented by the Robert H. Jackson Center &
the Youth and Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association*

***To Kill a Mockingbird* written by Harper Lee** **BOOK ESSAYS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT, March 30, 2015**

Theme: *To Kill a Mockingbird* tells a story about how an individual challenged the forces of racism and discrimination in order to protect the due process of law and basic civil rights, including the right to a fair trial by jury

Task: Using examples from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, tell how Atticus Finch challenged the forces of racism and discrimination in his defense of Tom Robinson. Explain the importance of this book and its message in your own life. Your essay should be 500 words or less in length

Essay Format: please follow these instructions

1. Your essay must be between 300 and 500 words in length.
2. Please use complete sentences.
3. In your introduction, address the theme. Use examples from the book, to support your answer. Your essay will be judged on how well you answer with specific examples, and on organization, grammar and spelling.
4. Write two or three paragraphs that support your viewpoint. Be sure to include topic sentences and cite specific examples and/or quotes from *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
5. In your conclusion, use a topic sentence to rephrase your belief. Also, explain the importance of this book to you personally.

Winners:

Three winners, selected from throughout New York State, will be notified by mail.

- Each winner will be invited to an awards ceremony held at the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown, NY on May 12, 2015.
- Each winner will be awarded a \$250 check to be used towards a U.S. Savings Bond.
- Acceptance of the prize constitutes permission to use winner's name, likeness and essay for public relations purposes without additional compensation or consent.
- Winning essays will be printed and distributed by the Robert H. Jackson Center and the New York Bar Association.

Requirements:

You must be a 5 through 12 grade student in New York State. You must complete the "Essay Contest Enrollment Form" below and staple it to your essay. You must follow the "Essay Format" (see above). Your essay must be typewritten, double-spaced and be an original work of scholarship. All sources must be listed. Deadline will be strictly observed



Sponsored by the Robert H. Jackson Center and the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association

Essay Contest Submissions:

- Entries are to be submitted to your classroom teacher. Each participating *school* should select and send only *one essay per grade level*.
- Please mail student entries, with this enrollment form attached to each one, in one packet to:

Law, Youth & Citizenship Program/ *Essay Contest* New York State Bar Association
 One Elk Street
 Albany, NY 12207

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Essay Contest Enrollment Form:

Student's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip code: _____

County: _____

Home phone: _____

School you attend: _____

School phone :() _____

Current grade: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Teacher's email: _____

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Deadline:

BOOK ESSAYS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT -March 30, 2015
 WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED April 10, 2015

Judging Criteria:

The essays will be judged for content, organization, clarity and style. Be sure to develop the theme and carefully follow the contest directions. The judging panel will be comprised of teachers and educators selected by the Law, Youth & Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association. The decisions of the judges are final, and all entries become the property of the NYSBA Law, Youth and Citizenship Program and of the Robert H. Jackson Center. Immediate family members of the Robert H. Jackson Center or its employees are ineligible.

Young Readers Program Author Event:

In association with the essay contest the Robert H. Jackson Center announces the 2015 Young Readers Program Author event which will be held on **May 13, 2015** in Jamestown, NY. Author Charles Shields will discuss his book *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee*, a New York Times Best Seller, which focuses on the life of Author Harper Lee. Held annually the Young Readers Program seeks to celebrate of the important contribution young people's literature makes to lifelong literacy, education and good citizenship.

For more information on how to attend please contact the Robert H. Jackson Center at 716.483.6646 or info@roberthjackson.org

