# DISABILITY AWARENESS ESSAY CONTEST -- 2013

**-- Contest Rules --**

Essay Topic**: Why do some children with disabilities not get invited to social events such as sleepovers and parties? What can you, your friends, your school, the community groups in which you are involved and your town do to increase the inclusion of children with disabilities?**

Eligibility: Submissions will be accepted from third through twelfth grade students who are residents of Essex County and are enrolled in public school in Essex County. Student essays may be submitted by school teachers or administrators or by individual students.

Content of Essays: Students should state at least three reasons why children with disabilities may not get invited to social events. When describing possible solutions and/or ideas to increase inclusion of children with disabilities, students should state how their proposed ideas will lead to more inclusion. Students can also describe a school and/or community group program that is already in existence in their town or describe the efforts of a classmate who is already helping to increase inclusion for a child with disabilities.

At the top of **each** page of the essay, students must include their full **name**, **grade, school** and **town**.

Length of Essays: The essays may be up to 2 pages, typed and double spaced, or up to 4 pages**, neatly hand written in ink and printed, not cursive**.

Sources for Essays: It is not necessary to use sources such as websites, books or articles. However, if sources are used, they should be cited in the essay's text or at the end of the essay.

Work product: Each essay must be solely the work of the student.

Judging: Essay entries will be judged primarily on content and, to a lesser extent, on style, including grammar, spelling and organization. Essays should demonstrate an understanding of the issues, as well as creativity. Essays which do not comply with all of the Contest Rules will not be considered.

Awards: A first, second and third place winner will be chosen for essay entries in each of the following groups: 3rd through 5th grade students, 6th through 8th grade students, and 9th through 12th grade students. The awards will be as follows:

| | 3rd - 5th grades | 6th - 8th grades | 9th–12th grades |
|---|---|---|---|
| First Place | $100 | $150 | $200 |

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| Second Place | $50 | $100 | $150 |
| Third Place | $25 | $50 | $100 |

Others may receive honorable mention. Each winner will receive an award certificate. Winning essays will be displayed on the Essex County Bar Association website and other venues.

Further Information: Any questions? You may contact Cecelia Lindenfelser at 973-535-2800 or clindenfelser@verizon.net; Ruth Lowenkron at 973-624-1815, ex. 21 or RLowenkron@edlawcenter.org; Nina Peckman at npeckman@acnj.org; Norman Rosenblum at 973-977-4150 or norro99@gmail.com; Julie Warshaw at 973-439-0077 or jwarshaw@me.com; or Ellen Yesukevich at 973-624-1815, ex.29 or EYesukevich@edlawcenter.org.

Essay Delivery: Entries must be delivered by hand, regular mail or email to:

Essex County Bar Association -- Essay Contest.
Essex County Historic Court House
470 Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard, Room B01
Newark, New Jersey 07102
Info@essexbar.com

All submissions are the property of the Essex County Bar Association.

Deadline: **Entries must be received by March 1, 2013**.

*THIS CONTEST IS SPONSORED BY THE* ***ESSEX COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES***.