



Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence 16th Annual Student Voices Contest

Dear Educator,

We are inviting your school to participate in the **16th Annual Student Voices Contest sponsored by the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV)**. The contest has awarded prizes to more than 150 students hailing from over 65 different schools. We would love to see your school on the list of this year's winners.

Getting students to think critically and express themselves on the issue of gun violence bears its own rewards. Students bring unique insight and creativity to this subject. With their youthful idealism, **they have much to teach us about the impact of gun violence, and we're eager to provide them the opportunity to speak out publicly on this vital topic.** We're also proud to foster the kind of reflective thinking that leads to safe, conscientious actions later in life.

It is in this spirit that we ask you to involve your students in this contest. This contest, now in its sixteenth year, is a way to allow students' voices to be heard. In the past, winning contest entries have been featured at Chicago City Hall press conferences, media events and in news stories. Most importantly, every year winning students present their entries to an assembly of their peers. It is always a moving and valuable experience for all in attendance.

Grade divisions for judging in the essay, poetry and art categories are: grades 1-4, grades 5-8, and grades 9-12. **Each winning student will receive a new computer and a \$25 bookstore gift certificate.** Their classroom teacher will receive a \$100 gift certificate to a co-sponsoring bookstore or art store. ICHV is proud of its mission to hear and support young peoples' voices about gun violence.

We invite you to utilize the contest packet, available by mail, fax, email and download from our website, to get your students started. The contest packet includes a **flier** to circulate, the official contest **guidelines** and an **entry form** for you to copy and distribute.

Thank you for any help you can offer to encourage participation in your school. Also, **Please visit our website at www.ichv.org, for information on our new Student Voices Curriculum**, a program that will help your students to be further informed and engaged on this issue. ICHV would be happy to answer any questions; just call (312) 341-0939 for Kristen Ellison, ICHV Program Manager or Kate Williamson, Director of Community Affairs or email at kellison@ichv.org or kwilliamson@ichv.org respectively.

Sincerely,

Kate Williamson,
Director of Community Affairs

Kristen Ellison,
Program Manager

CHICAGO OFFICE

223 West Jackson Boulevard
Suite 802
Chicago, Illinois 60606
312.341.0939
312.341.9770 (fax)

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE

133 South Fourth Street
Suite 202A
Springfield, Illinois 62701
217.744.7383
217.744.1760 (fax)

www.ichv.org

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ENTER AND WIN!



ICHV's 16th Annual Student Voices Contest

TOPIC: The many different forms of gun violence affect individuals, families and communities in a variety of ways. What do you think are the causes behind gun violence?

PRIZES: Winners receive a new COMPUTER and a \$25 bookstore gift certificate. The winners' teachers receive a \$100 gift certificate.

ELIGIBILITY: Illinois students in grades 1-12 may submit works in one of three categories: essay, poetry, and art.



- Contest packets available September 1, 2010
- Entries accepted through February 4, 2011
- Winners announced in May 2011

Get your packet by calling ICHV at 312-341-0939, or
visiting our website www.ICHV.org

Questions Contact:

Kristen Ellison, ICHV Program Manager: kellison@ichv.org

or Kate Williamson, Director of Community Affairs: kwilliamson@ichv.org

Guidelines

for the ICHV
16th Annual Student Voices Contest

Topic: The many different forms of gun violence affect individuals, families and communities in a variety of ways. What do you think are the causes behind gun violence?

Eligibility: All students currently in grades 1 through 12 are eligible to participate. We welcome entries from all students in Illinois. Only one entry per student.

Categories: ESSAY, POETRY, and ART

Grade Divisions for Judging:

Division One, 1st grade – 4th grade
Division Two, 5th grade – 8th grade
Division Three, 9th grade – 12th grade

Winners: At least one winner from each category and grade division will be selected.

Prizes: Each winner receives a new computer and a \$25 bookstore gift certificate. Submitting teachers of winning students receive a \$100 gift certificate to a sponsoring bookstore or art supply store. Winners will be notified in May 2011 and then honored at an Awards Assembly at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

Contest Guidelines:

1. Each entry requires a completed **entry form**.
2. Each entry must fit into **one category** (essay, poem, or artwork).
3. Written entries should be **typed or written in black ink** (to facilitate photocopying).
4. All prose entries should follow a paragraph format. Recommended essay lengths are as follows:
Division One: 200-250 words; Division Two: 350-400 words; Division Three: 500-600 words.
5. All artwork should be two-dimensional.

Deadline: February 4, 2011 - Early entries accepted

Please send entries to:
Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence
Attn: Student Voices Contest
223 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 802
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: (312) 341-0939



Questions Contact:
Kristen Ellison, ICHV Program Manager: kellison@ichv.org
or Kate Williamson, Director of Community Affairs: kwilliamson@ichv.org

www.ICHV.org

16th Annual Student Voices Contest

Entry Form 2010/2011

(ALL information must be complete)

My submission is: (Please mark only one)
 Essay Poetry Art

Student Name: _____ School Name: _____
Home Address: _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

School Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____ Teacher/School Email: _____

Contest Theme: The many different forms of gun violence affect individuals, families and communities in a variety of ways. What do you think are the causes behind gun violence?

All submissions become the sole property of ICHV. ICHV reserves the right to exhibit, publish and reprint submissions. Submitted entries will not be returned. Contest winners will be notified in May 2011.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature (required)

X _____



Mail your entry with this form to:

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Entry Deadline : February 4, 2011

For more information please call 312-341-0939, or visit www.ichv.org