

Youth Leadership Event

Short Essay/Persuasive Speech 2016

*CONCEPT: To create an activity that will help to build writing and speaking skills necessary to succeed in higher education or in future employment.

*Establish an annual youth essay/speaking contest for juniors and seniors in the area's high schools. In order to become participants, students will be required to write an essay on a topic of community concern.

* Certificates and monetary awards will be given for the top three candidates. The amount awarded will be determined annually by the Gold Country Kiwanis financial committee. The awards for 2016 will be \$750 for first place; \$500 for second place and \$250 for third place.

* The applicant shall write an essay on a subject listed on the application of two to three pages, typed and double spaced. The essays will be reviewed by the Persuasive Essay and Speech Committee. The committee will select the top three essays. The candidates with the selected essays will then be required to give a persuasive speech in front of a panel of judges and Kiwanis general members.

*A grading guideline for the essay and speech are included in this package.

GOLD COUNTRY KIWANIS
 Youth Leadership Event Short Essay/Persuasive Speech
 Grading Criteria 2016

Criteria	Full Points	Notes	Points
Audience Attention 10 Points	Essay targets an audience for the issue chosen. Where relevant, makes appeals or asks for actions that the audience has the power and authority to implement.		
Issue Analysis 10 Points	Essay accurately analyzes a real, contemporary issue with documented, supportive evidence.		
Grammar, Mechanics and Clarity 10 Points	Structure is well organized to clearly convey and substantiate topic. Proper paragraphing and punctuation. Action verbs used to create energy and interest for reader. Attribution given to quotations and statistical data sources.		
Total Essay Points			
Speech Content 15 Points	Speech adapts to the audience utilizing terms and analogies that are appropriate. Persuasive arguments clearly substantiate need and position while addressing possible objections. The call for action is clearly conveyed.		
Speech Delivery 15 Points	Oral presentation is clear, audible, and delivered smoothly with care to avoid fillers like “um”, and “er”. Speaker makes eye contact and makes only occasional references to notes. Essay should not be read Time Limit: 4 – 8 minutes		
Total Speech Points			
Total Essay and Speech Points			

GOLD COUNTRY KIWANIS YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Persuasive Writing/Speech Contest Application

Mission: To encourage juniors and seniors in the local high school district to participate in a writing/speech contest that will help build necessary skills to succeed in higher education and/or employment.

Awards will be given for the top three candidates.

This is a two part contest:

1. The candidate should write a 2-3 page typed, double-spaced essay about a topic of community concern from the list below. Each submission will be reviewed by the Gold Country Kiwanis Persuasive Essay and Speech Committee. The paper will be judged on grammar, thought process, organizational skills and verifiable facts.
2. The top 3 candidates will give a speech on their papers to a panel of judges in February. The candidates will be judged on both the short essay and their presentation skills as outlined in the attached grading criteria.

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Level of Education: (circle one)	Junior	Senior
Current High School: (circle one)	Nevada Union Ghidotti North Point Academy	Bear River Silver Springs NU Tech

Select One Topic and Circle:

Homeless in our Community	Social Justice
Drug Usage in our Community	Diversity & Tolerance
Housing Shortage	The Electoral College
Environmental/Climate Change	Family Values

Application and Essay must be submitted by **DECEMBER 15, 2016** to:
Gold Country Kiwanis Club, P.O. Box 721, Grass Valley, CA 95945