

The Springfield Public Forum and the Springfield City Library with funding from the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation present:

The City Thinks Student Essay Contest Rules and Entry Form

Tell your city what you think! To participate, please answer the following question in 750 words or less and submit to citythinksessay@yahoo.com by September 26th. Entry form, guidelines and rules are below.

Consider the U.S.' response to the genocides in Rwanda and Darfur. What patterns do you see with the U.S.'s outreach to help the "other"? What lessons learned in Rwanda should be applied to Darfur? What is our responsibility to help now in Darfur and to prevent further genocides from occurring?

Entry Form: Please complete the information below and submit with signed rules and your essay.

Name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	
Telephone #	
Email address	
Date of Birth	
School Attending	
School Address	
School Phone	
Sponsoring teacher (if applicable)	
If under 18, parent/guardian name	

By signing below, I, _____ (print name here), agree to abide by the rules and regulations of **The City Thinks** Essay Contest.

Name _____ Date _____

If under 18: By signing below, I _____ (print parent/guardian name here) give my son/ daughter/minor child permission to participate in **The City Thinks** essay contest and agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the contest as outlined.

Name _____ Date _____

By initialing here, I agree to these rules _____

Essay Contest Rules

OVERVIEW: The City Thinks Essay Contest (the "Contest") is open to all residents of greater Springfield, MA, who are currently enrolled full-time in a public or state-accredited private or parochial school, college or university in good standing and are between the ages of 12 and 21. All entrants who are under the age of Eighteen (18) at the time of entry must have the permission of at least one (1) of their parents and/or legal guardians to enter. By entering the Contest, entrants and/or their parents or legal guardians (if such entrants are minors): (i) agree to accept and be bound by all terms of these Official Rules and Regulations ("Official Rules").

HOW TO ENTER: From Monday, September 10, 2007 – Wednesday September 26, 2007 (the "Entry Period"), Sponsors will conduct an essay contest which considers the topic of genocide. To enter, participants download an electronic copy of the entry form, located at www.springfieldpublicforum.org (the "Website"), during the Entry Period. A signed and printed hard copy of the entry form and permission slip, plus the essay, must be received by the Springfield Public Forum by September 26, 2007 at Springfield Public Forum, P.O. Box 5374, Springfield, MA 01101. Any submissions received after September 26, 2007 will not be eligible for consideration. In addition, a completed essay must be sent in electronic word format to springfieldpublicforum@yahoo.com by midnight on September 26, 2007. The essay must have the student's name, phone number, email, address, school and age on it. In addition,

Essays must be type-written, double-spaced, no more than 750 words in length. Essays must answer the question:

“Consider the U.S.’ response to the genocides in Rwanda and Darfur. What patterns do you see with the U.S.’s outreach to help the “other”? What lessons learned in Rwanda should be applied to Darfur? What is our responsibility to help now in Darfur and to prevent further genocides from occurring? “

No other materials will be accepted by Sponsors in connection with the Contest. All entries must be submitted in the name of an individual person. All entries (including Essays) become the property of Sponsors, will not be acknowledged or returned and may be used by Sponsors in any manner or media in perpetuity without compensation. Essays must be written in English and Essays on any topic other than the chosen Topic shall be disqualified. Any plagiarism and/or failure to properly identify non-original material by an entrant will result in such entrant's disqualification. Essays containing quotations or copyrighted materials which are not properly identified will also be disqualified. All words in the Essay except the title, bibliography and/or footnotes shall be counted towards the 750 word limit. Essays that Sponsors and/or the judges deem, in their sole discretion, to be inappropriate or obscene will be void. Limit one (1) entry per person. Multiple entries from any person and/or duplicate entries will be deemed void.

Sponsors are not responsible for misdirected, inaccurate, incomplete, lost, late, delayed, undelivered, damaged or illegible entries, and all such entries will be void.

JUDGING: A group of 18 semi-finalists will be selected by Public Forum staff. These entries will be judged by a panel of local educators. The essays will be evaluated upon the following criteria: originality, knowledge and relevance of topic, creativity, eloquence of writing style, paragraph and essay structure. The decisions of the judges will be final and binding on all participants. One winner will be chosen from each of the following age categories: 12-14, 15-18, 19-21, with 2 runners-up in each category

By initialing here, I agree to these rules _____

WINNER NOTIFICATION: Winners will be notified by Sponsors on October 5th, 2007 with the official announcement made at the Kick off reception on October 7th, 2007. Notification will be either by the telephone number or e-mail address provided on his/her Official Entry Form. Winners must also meet all eligibility requirements, including the execution and return of all necessary releases. Entrants must be prepared to read their winning essays at the October 7, 2007 Kick off event from 2-4 p.m.

RECOGNITION: Winners will read their essays at the Kick-off reception for **The City Thinks** to be held on October 7, 2007. In addition, each winner and 1 guest will be invited to a reception and dinner with Presidential Medal of Freedom Winner Paul Rusesabagina, to be held at the Springfield Monarch Sheraton Hotel on October 18th. Copies of the winning essays will be distributed to all guests, and winners will be recognized at the Paul Rusesabagina lecture at Symphony Hall on October 18th.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS: By entering this Contest, entrants (and/or their parent or legal guardian): (i) agree to be bound by the decisions of Sponsors and judges which are final and binding in all matters; (ii) grant Sponsors and their designees the right, unless prohibited by law, to use their names, cities and states of residence, voices, pictures and likenesses, without compensation, notification or permission, for the purpose of advertising and publicity in any and all media, now or after known, throughout the world in perpetuity. Sponsors will own the entries submitted (including the Essay and all rights embodied therein), and their designees may exploit, edit, modify, and distribute the entries and all elements of such entries, including, without limitation, the names and likenesses of any persons or locations embodied therein, in any and all media, now or hereafter known throughout the world in perpetuity without limitation at no additional notification or permission of entrants, their parents or legal guardians or any third party

SPONSORS: This contest is sponsored by the Springfield Public Forum and the Springfield City Library.

The City Thinks is a new collaboration between the Springfield Public Forum and the Springfield City Library with funding from the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation and support from local schools and colleges. The goal of the program is to provide area residents the opportunity to consider a pressing issue of our times through education, discussion and other activities. For our 2007 inaugural program, The City Thinks presents Hotel Rwanda: Lessons Yet to Be Learned, a consideration of the topic of genocide in Africa.

For more information email citythinksessay@yahoo.com.

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