

School Psychology Essay Competition Win \$1000 for your Essay on School Psychology

Sponsored by the School Psychology Program at Texas A&M University

Purpose. Are you thinking about applying to graduate school in psychology but are not sure about the different options? The purpose of this essay contest is to encourage students to learn more about graduate study and careers in school psychology. There is no requirement that applicants apply to a School Psychology Program (at Texas A&M University or elsewhere), and no preference is given to individuals based on their career plans.

Essay requirements. Students write an essay of no more than 7 double-spaced pages (12 pt font), including references, on one of the topics listed below. Papers that exceed 7 pages will not be reviewed.

Student eligibility. Students must be enrolled in an accredited undergraduate program in psychology and have completed a minimum of 48 hours of undergraduate college credits.

Eligible topics. Write on one of the following topics:

- Why are schools an important setting for implementing programs to prevent mental and emotional disorders?
- Promising approaches for reducing the “achievement gap” between racial/ethnic and income groups in the United States
- The link between children’s peer relationships and their academic and social adjustment in school
- The role of parental and familial involvement in children’s school success
- Models for delivering mental health services in schools



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Basis for evaluation. Each paper will be judged on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Quality and clarity of writing.
2. Documentation of empirical support for statements and conclusions.
3. Appropriate use of citations and references.
4. Conformity to American Psychological Association *Publication Style Manual*.
5. Logical connections between ideas.

Submission. Your paper must be post-marked *no later than February 15, 2010*. Complete and enclose the attached form with your paper. Send your paper and the attached form to the following address:

Dr. Cynthia A. Riccio
Department of Educational Psychology
4225 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-4225

Review procedures and notification

Each paper will be rated by two members of the Texas A&M University School Psychology faculty. Papers with combined ratings within the top 10% of applications will be rated by additional faculty, and the highest scoring paper will be selected for the award.

The winner will be notified by April 15, 2010. The name of the winner and the winning essay will be posted on the Texas A&M University website.

Award Amount: The author of the winning essay will receive a check from Texas A&M University in the amount of \$1000.

School Psychology Essay Competition Entry Form

Your Name: _____

Current Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Secondary phone: _____

Name of undergraduate college: _____

Your undergraduate major: _____

Number of credits toward your degree completed as of the end of the Fall 2009 term _____

My signing below, I certify that the above information is correct, to the best of my knowledge and I give consent to officials at Texas A&M University to verify this information.

Your signature

Your printed or typed name

Date _____

This form must accompany your essay! Thank you.