Mayborn National History Writing Contest
for High School and Community College Students
Sponsored by

CONTEST DETAILS

ABOUT THE CONTEST
The Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference created a national writing contest in 2010 with two partners: George Bush Presidential Library and Museum and BigThought of Dallas. The purpose was to offer young writers an opportunity to compete and learn from professionals. The first two years, the Mayborn contest concentrated on biography. In this third year, the topic is historical narrative. Ron Powers, a Pulitzer Prize winner and author of *Flags of Our Fathers* will conduct a workshop for all ten winners on Friday, July 19, at the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference in Grapevine, Texas.

WHO CAN ENTER
High school and community college students are eligible for this contest. The ages allowed are 14-25.

HOW THE CONTEST WORKS
All interested students will submit a historical narrative by June 8, 2013. The top 10 narratives will be selected by a jury pool of prominent historians and narrative nonfiction writers. The ten winners will be invited as guests of the Mayborn Conference to attend the most renowned narrative nonfiction conference in the country, The Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference scheduled for July 19-21, 2013, in Grapevine, Texas. Notifications will be made 4-5 weeks prior to the conference.
Each winner will select a teacher or mentor to join him or her at the Mayborn Conference. The award includes registration, hotel and meals for the students and their teachers or mentors (20 people total). Transportation costs are the responsibility of the winners and their teachers or mentors, though some assistance may be available. The conference manager will handle registration and hotel arrangements. Winners will have their historical narratives evaluated and critiqued in the Friday workshop at the conference starting at 9 a.m. and concluding at 4 p.m. Winners are included in all activities of the conference as registrants. The top 10 winners will have their narratives published by The Dallas Morning News.

The winners will be honored at the Mayborn Conference’s Southwest Soiree on Friday night at the conference. All activities are held in the conference hotel. See details on the conference at: http://journalism.unt.edu/maybornconference.

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In considering the subject of your historical narrative, keep in mind that we are looking for a factual account of a person who left a deep and lasting legacy in his or her community, or an event that people remember. You are responsible for the research and writing of the narrative. You may receive help, advice and counsel from your teachers, parents and other adults on the research. Contest sponsors are providing handouts on the historians craft to help you prepare your narrative. You may also obtain assistance in typing your paper, but the writing, thoughts and conclusions must be your own. The historical narrative may not have been previously published anywhere. Sources of information, including direct quotations, must be cited using either Kate L. Turabian’s Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations or The Chicago Manual of Style.
Submissions should be printed single-sided, paginated, double-spaced and set with one-inch margins. The narrative must be a minimum of five pages and cannot exceed 20 pages (or about 5,000 words). Please use Times New Roman style, 12-point type.
No identification as to the writer should be on any pages of the narrative.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY
Your submission and the application (pages 4 and 5 below) must be sent in the following two ways:

Hard-copy application and submission:
Two hard copies of your submission – printed, unstapled and in two separate folders.
One hard copy of your application – signed in blue ink.
These are to be sent by U.S. Postal Service.
Electronic submission:
One electronic copy of the submission (Word Document only) – submitted via e-mail.
One electronic copy of your application (don’t worry about signatures, we just need those on hard copies) – submitted via e-mail.

UPON NOTIFICATION
The winners will be notified via e-mail and/or phone by the writing competition coordinator of the Mayborn Conference approximately five weeks from the conference date.
Each winner will be sent copies of all workshop submissions, with critique sheets and instructions.
Before July 19, writers are expected to carefully read all the submissions in their assigned workshop, make written notations on the submissions and also complete the critique sheets. The critique sheets will be presented to each writer at the end of the workshop session, and your workshop leader will also present each workshop participant a written evaluation with suggestions on ways to revise and improve the historical narrative.
In the critique sheets, each workshop participant will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the work with respect to the quality of the research and the writing. Workshop participants will address such issues as clarity, comprehensiveness, creativity, the presence or lack of a narrative thread and articulated theme, vivid and concrete detail, anecdotes, metaphor, scene setting, dialogue and other literary devices used in writing the story.

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