



New Mexico
Human Rights Projects

STEREOTYPING: From Anne Frank to the Present



A STATEWIDE ESSAY COMPETITION GRADES 6-12

(Separate judging for middle and high school students)

ESSAY QUESTION

Think about today's society. What current negative stereotypes exist about different groups in our society? Write an essay in which you include answers to the following questions:

- Have you ever seen or heard about someone taking action against a person based on a stereotype? Explain the situation.
- What can happen when stereotypes are used in a negative manner?
- What has history shown us about the results of negative uses of stereotyping?
- What can you, as an individual, do to help stop stereotyping people? We all form stereotypes of some sort, but how can you avoid hurting people?

BACKGROUND

Anne Frank was Jewish. Hitler used stereotypes (untrue, broad generalizations) such as the following to describe Jews: physical traits (all Jews have dark hair, dark eyes, large noses); wealth (all Jews are rich); power (Jews are going to take over); religion ("different"). As a result of intense stereotyping, Hitler's backers, as well as average people in Germany, took the stereotypes as truth, thought of Jews as less than human, began to hate them, and finally took violent action against them—all growing out of the original, untrue stereotypes.

ENTRY RULES

1. 500-800 words (MS, HS); 250-500 (Elem.)
2. Include introduction, body, and conclusion
3. Use 12pt type in block letters (no script)
4. Double space essay on 8-1/2" X 11" paper, 1" margins on all sides
5. Attach cover sheet with your Name, Home Address, City, State, Zip, Grade Level, Age, School, Teacher's Name
6. Include self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want your entry returned
7. Address all entries to:
Essay Contest
NMHRP
400 Gold St. SW, Suite 220
Albuquerque, NM 87102
8. Entries must be postmarked on or before March 19, 2010
9. Winners will be announced by April 16, 2010
10. Direct inquiries to NMHRP:
(505) 340-0011 info@nmhrp.org

TWO GRAND PRIZES

(Best Middle School & High School Entries!)

First Place Winners will receive **\$250.00**

Second Place Winners will receive **\$100.00**

Third Place Winners will receive **\$75.00**