

# CERCL & ACE@Rice 2021 High School Essay Contest

We are pleased to announce an essay contest for all 10th & 11th grade students at HISD Title I High Schools. This program is part of our commitment to enhancing critical thinking skills as a way of supporting the development of a new generations of leaders.

## PRIZES

**First Place:** \$1,000 Cash Prize\*

**Second Place:** \$750 Cash Prize\*

**Third Place:** \$500 Cash Prize\*

**Plaque for school with five or more winning entries**

\* Must submit W-9 to receive check from Rice University.

**Ten honorable mention awards:**

- Princeton Review College Preparation course
- Certificate presented to winners at their school

**Virtual College essay and admissions workshop for all students who enter the contest.**



## Essay Specifications:

- Must be at least 500 and no more than 750 words
- Must be typed and doubled spaced
- Must add a cover sheet with your:
  - essay title and word count
  - first and last name (preferred pronouns)
  - school name
  - graduation year
  - contact phone number and email address
- Please do not put your name on your essay pages

## Essay Prompt:

*Inclusive curriculum has become a popular topic of discussion among curriculum specialists and government officials. You've been asked to research and write a report to the HISD Superintendent about inclusivity in curriculum and public education in Houston. This is a multi part assignment. First, define "inclusive curriculum" and then give your recommendation(s) on ways that it can add marginalized voices to the HISD curriculum. Please remember to cite your sources and give descriptive examples.*

In the essay, students should address the prompt, define and describe your position with examples. Because of the word limit, students should be precise and move straight to the most important points. Students may receive advice from teachers or parents (e.g., help with formatting the essay), but each student is responsible for determining the topic, conducting research, and writing the essay.

The essay must be the work of one student from a participating school, and each student is allowed to submit only one essay.

## How Will the Essay Be Evaluated?:

An evaluation committee composed of Rice faculty, staff, and students will evaluate each essay and select prize winners based on the following criteria:

- 1) Compliance with the length limitation
- 2) Consistent and creative adherence to the theme (30 points)
- 3) Convincing argument and clear expression of ideas (40 points)
- 3) Grammar and proper structure (30 points)

## Participation Requirements:

### Students

- Must be current sophomore or junior enrolled at a Title I High School in the Houston Independent School District
- Must document a 3.0 GPA or higher or ranking in the top 10% of your class

### Schools

- Title I Coordinator, College Counselor, English Department Chair or Teacher at participating schools must collect and submit essays for eligible students

## Submission Instructions:

- Please email us at [cercl@rice.edu](mailto:cercl@rice.edu) for instructions on how to submit essays. We look forward to hearing from you!

**DEADLINE NOVEMBER 11, 2021**

For questions or clarifications, please contact [cercl@rice.edu](mailto:cercl@rice.edu), 713-348-5550 or visit <http://cercl.rice.edu>