



*AN INVITATION TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS*

**2008 Character Matters Essay Contest** *sponsored by*  
**USD Character Development Center**  
Deadline is March 14, 2008

The Character Matters Essay Contest offers students the opportunity to reflect on and write about experiences related to matters of honesty, courage, respect, responsibility, service, self-discipline, and other character traits. Students may write about important people in their lives or personal experiences in which they displayed the traits mentioned. They may select a figure from history or some famous person who has influenced their thoughts and opinions about character. Students can write about how character has influenced what they read, see, feel, and do.

**Contest Divisions:** elementary school, grades 4 & 5; middle school, grades 6,7,8; and high schools, grade 9 to 12. For all schools in San Diego and Imperial Valley Counties.

**Essay:** Students should write a 2 to 4 page essay on the topics in the introduction (above).

**Submission:** Each teacher submits two essays from his/her class. That means that the teacher is the first reviewer. Each teacher who submits two essays from her/his class will receive a \$50 discount to our summer conference June 30-July1, 2008.

**Entry Form:** Each teacher must submit, with the student essays, an official contest entry form.

**Participation Certificates:** All students whose essays are submitted by their teachers will receive a certificate of participation.

**Contest Winners:** There are three winners in each category. First place winners receive \$100 and a plaque; second place winners receive \$75 and a plaque; third place winners receive \$50 and a plaque.

**Teacher Awards:** All nine teachers of winning students will receive a gift from the Character Development Center including the conference discount.

**Award Presentations:** Students winners and their teachers will be notified by mail or email. The awards will be delivered to the teacher at his/her school. The winning teacher and the school principal will decide the best venue for presenting the award to the winning student - usually at the school's awards ceremony.

Visit our website at [charactermatters.sandiego.edu](http://charactermatters.sandiego.edu) to read winning essays from 2007

**For information**  
phone 619-260-2250  
e-mail [charactermatters@sandiego.edu](mailto:charactermatters@sandiego.edu)  
website <http://charactermatters.sandiego.edu>

## 2008 Character Matters Essay Contest Entry Form Character Development Center

Please complete the following form and attach to each essay. Make sure student name appears only on this cover sheet and nowhere else in the essay.

Essay Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student (or guardian) Phone Number and E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name, Address, Phone Number, E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### *Directions for the teacher\*:*

1. Select the top two or three essays from your class.
2. Fill out an entry form for each essay and attach it to the back of the essay.
3. Be sure to make a copy of the students' essays and the entry forms before mailing.
4. Entries must be postmarked by March 14, 2008.
5. Students and their teachers will receive letters notifying them that they have submitted the winning essay.

### **Please mail each completed form and essay to:**

CDC Character Matters Essay Contest  
USD School of Leadership and Education Sciences, 246 - B  
5998 Alcalá Park  
San Diego, CA. 92110

*\*All entries become the property of The School of Leadership and Education Sciences and may be published in any chosen venue. If the author wishes to remain anonymous, the author's name will not be published.*

### **Character Development Center**

phone: 619-260-2250

website: <http://charactermatters.sandiego.edu>

e-mail: [character@sandiego.edu](mailto:character@sandiego.edu), [deroche@sandiego.edu](mailto:deroche@sandiego.edu)

