

TO: Middle School & High School ESL teachers

FROM: ITBE Board – Special Interest Group – Writing Contest

RE: 2014-15 Writing Contest Awards

ITBE Annual Convention - February 27-28, 2015

It is the beginning of a new school year and all of you should be planning a way to get your English language learners to write about their experiences as immigrants, or as second language or third language learners. Not all ELLs know only one language other than English. Many of them know multiple languages; their homeland offers many opportunities to learn other dialects and languages

Now is the time to think of ways to reward your students for their attempts at writing. You can easily plan it into your daily curriculum.

Every year, the ITBE board honors children in middle school and high school with monetary awards. We want YOUR students to win this year! But you have to be a member of ITBE in order to enter your students in the writing contest. The deadline for entrants is December 15th, 2014. The committee deliberates during the Christmas break reading through the volumes of papers that are received and they choose the very best to win. Then the board honors the students and their families at the February annual convention, this year in Naperville at the Marriott Hotel on February 27th and 28th. The winners come to the convention with their teachers and receive their monetary rewards. We give them the opportunity to summarize their ideas to the audience of family and friends. The looks on their faces when they come to receive their First, Second or Third Place monetary awards is PRICELESS!



Please consider offering your students the opportunity to win \$150, \$100 or \$75 awards for their writing. Stay in touch via the ITBE website at www.itbe.org and you will see updates on the important events sponsored by this professional organization of ESL and bilingual teachers.