



The 2010 Will McDonough Writing Contest

Contest Guidelines

Essay Topics

Students can create a fiction or non-fiction essay on one of the following three topics:

1. Stand Strong

Write a fiction or non-fiction essay about an individual athlete or a team, famous or unsung, who has demonstrated one or more of the following:

- **Determination** – Work hard, stay positive, and never give up
- **Courage** – Do the right thing despite fear or obstacles
- **Teamwork** – Respect, value, and support your teammates
- **Fairness** – Practice and promote good sportsmanship and honesty
- **Responsibility** – Follow through on your promises and commitments

2. Good Sports/Bad Sports

Write a fiction or non-fiction essay about an individual or a team who has displayed exceptionally good or exceptionally poor sportsmanship. Discuss how that individual's attitude has affected the people around him or her.

3. Olympic Inspirations

Making an Olympic team takes a lot of hard work and dedication. Often athletes must make huge sacrifices for the privilege to represent their country in the Olympic Games. Write about an Olympic athlete from the 2010 or other previous Olympics (BOTH WINTER AND SUMMER) whom you found inspirational. Focus on one or more of the following character traits: **Teamwork, Responsibility, Fairness, Determination and Courage.**

Judging Criteria

Students will be judged on how they organize and express their ideas and how well they address the topic. Students will also be judged on creativity, writing style, grammar and spelling. Students may use primary and secondary sources in their essay. Please include a bibliography and documentation if needed.

Maximum Length of Essays

Grades 4-5	300 Words	Grades 9-10	600 Words
Grades 6-8	500 Words	Grades 11-12	700 Words

All entries must be postmarked on or before March 2, 2010. Winning essays will be featured in the Will McDonough Exhibit in The Sports Museum, located within the TD Garden. Contest winners will receive a \$100 savings bond, and along with their families and teachers, be invited to participate in the award ceremony at The Sports Museum on March 31, 2010 that includes attending a Boston Celtics game after the ceremony. Winners will be announced via the The Sports Museum's web site (www.sportsmuseum.org) on March 19th.



The 2010 Will McDonough Writing Contest

Presented by



Entry Form

Each Entrant must attach this form to his/her essay. Entries with incomplete forms will not be accepted. Entries must be mailed or faxed by March 2, 2010. The decisions of the judges are final. Submitted essays become the property of The Sports Museum.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Title of Essay: _____

School Name: _____

Teacher Name _____

School Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

School Phone: _____

Parent/Caregiver Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Parent/Caregiver Release

I/We understand the The Sports Museum may use the essay, in its original or adapted form, for publicity or commercially distributed publications for no additional compensation and may use the entrant's name and/or likeness. We hereby grant such uses.

Parent of Caregiver

Student Signature

Date

Date

Please submit entries to the following address: Attn: Michelle Gormley, The Sports Museum
Will McDonough Writing Contest
100 Legends Way
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 624-1238 FAX