

# NABE "Being Bilingual" Student Essay Competition Guidelines

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The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) invites you to participate in its Annual Nationwide Writing Contest for Bilingual Students.

The competition is open to all elementary school, middle school, and high school students who are enrolled in a bilingual classroom, or in a classroom with native language support:

Write an essay about being bilingual, using the correct theme for the student's grade level, as listed below:

**TOPIC:**

Students in Grades 3-5: Proud to Be Bilingual

Students in Grades 6 – 8: The Importance of Being Bilingual

Students in Grades 9 -12: How Being Bilingual Will Assist Me in My Future Endeavors

**CASH PRIZES -First Place Winners**

- Grades 3-5: \$500
- Grades 6-8: \$500
- Grades 9-12: \$500

**TRAVEL AWARDS:** First Place Winners- Student winners, along with one (1) parent/guardian will travel to the NABE Conference to attend the NABE Conference Awards Luncheon. This will include: air travel ticket up to \$500.00 per person, two (2) nights lodging at the NABE Conference Headquarter Hotel, (2) NABE Conference Registrations and two (2) NABE Awards Luncheon tickets, a total value of \$2,500.

**ELIGIBILITY** • Participation in the contest is limited to students who are enrolled in a bilingual classroom, or in a classroom with native language support. • Participants must have a B average or better in academic grades and at least a 90% school attendance record. • Previous winners are not eligible to participate.

**CRITERIA** Each essay will be judged on:

- (1) Development of the theme – 30%;
- (2) Originality – 20%;
- (3) Content and clarity of expression–30%; and
- (4) Grammar and mechanics – 20%

**CONTEST RULES:** Only entries that comply with the following rules will be considered:

**Language:** Essay must be written in the student's second language. For example, if the student is participating in a dual language program and English is her/his first language, the essay must be written in the second and not in English.

**Subject:** All essays must address the theme listed under "TOPICS" above for the appropriate grade level.

**Length:** The number of words must be listed at the end of each essay. Lengths must be as follows:

- Grades 3-5: 150-200 words
- Grades 6-8: 250-350 words
- Grades 9-12: 400-500 words

**Format:** The essay should be typed double-spaced, and follow the word count guidelines above for the student's grade level. Documents must be in **PDF** or **PDFX** format. Documents must be submitted electronically via the online application system. A cover page must be provided with the essay title and the student's name. **The essay title must be included at the top of the essay, but the student's name should not appear on the essay.** An additional page with a signed acknowledgment from the student's teacher verifying that the student meets the contest eligibility criteria must also be submitted.

**Application:** The online application form must be completed. • Copyright: All essays become the property of NABE and will not be returned. NABE reserves the right to publish all essays.

**Judging:** A panel of judges will select the national winners in each grade category.

**Eligibility Disclaimer:** NABE committee members and their family members are not eligible to enter the contest. Family members of committee members include siblings, parents, significant others, children, grandchildren, and grandparents. Additionally, students of committee members, or students of family members of committee members, are not eligible to enter the contest.