

Students to Seniors History Contest

The Sonoma County Public Library Foundation will host its second Students to Seniors History Contest during the 2005-06 academic year. The Students to Seniors History Contest will enable hundreds of Sonoma County residents, young and old, to share their stories.

Contest Rules

1. No entry fee is required. All submissions become the property of the Sonoma County Public Library Foundation.
2. Contest is open to any Sonoma County student, grades 3 through 12.
3. Each student must interview an adult, preferably an adult aged 60 or older. The student must complete a brief fact sheet (see below), write an essay, and provide an illustration to accompany the essay. Parents or teachers may assist the student by taking notes at the interview. **The essay must be written by the student.** The Library Foundation has a particular interest in interviews of individuals whose stories are not well known.
4. Black-and-white illustrations must be submitted on a plain, 8 ½" x 11" white sheet of paper. Students may draw the illustration in pencil, but should darken the illustration with ink for submission. Students should include a caption with the drawing.
5. A photograph of the student and the interviewee would be welcome but is not required. Please put a label on the back of the photo and **do not** tape, staple or paperclip the photo.
6. Entries can be submitted for one of three categories:
 - a. Elementary student, Grades 3-6: 300 to 500 word essay
 - b. Middle school student, Grades 7-8: 500 to 750 word essay
 - c. High school student, Grades 9-12: 500 to 750 word essay
7. Typewritten entries are preferred, but handwritten entries are acceptable. Each entry must have a cover page with the following information:
 - name of the person interviewed
 - student's name
 - student's school, grade and teacher (or note if homeschooled)
 - student's address and telephone number
 - the approximate word count of the essay.Subsequent pages should be headed with the name of the individual interviewed and the page number.
8. The Library Foundation encourages teachers to undertake this contest as a class project. Students should turn in their work to the teacher, and teachers may submit up to three essays from each class for judging. If a student's class is not participating, the student may submit an entry directly to the Library Foundation.
9. A judging panel comprised of local historians, librarians and Library Foundation representatives will review entries and award prizes. Decisions by the judges are final.
10. **Deadline: All entries are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 31, 2006. Mail entries to: Sonoma County Public Library Foundation, Third and E Streets, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.**

Prizes

Ten winning entries from each category (elementary, middle and high school) will be published in a book, **Sonoma County Stories**. The anticipated publication date of the book is fall 2006. The Library Foundation is currently assembling gift certificates as prizes and will announce more details about them by February 2006. Gift certificates will be valid at local establishments such as music, book and toy stores; theaters and skating rinks; and other businesses that will appeal to children and teens. Each student who submits an entry to the Library Foundation will receive a certificate of appreciation.

High School Students

First Prize: \$100 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Second Prize: \$50 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Third Prize: \$25 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Fourth Prize: \$10 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Fifth Prize: \$10 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Five honorable mentions: A copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.

Middle School Students

First Prize: \$100 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Second Prize: \$50 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Third Prize: \$25 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Fourth Prize: \$10 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Fifth Prize: \$10 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Five honorable mentions: A copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.

Elementary School Students

First Prize: \$50 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Second Prize: \$25 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Third Prize: \$10 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Fourth Prize: \$10 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Fifth Prize: \$10 in gift certificates and a copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.
Five honorable mentions: A copy of **Sonoma County Stories**.

Required Fact Sheet

Student Information

Student's name _____

Student's birthdate _____

Student's birthplace _____

Student's mother's (maiden) name _____

Student's father's name _____

Names of student's brothers and sisters _____

How long have you lived in Sonoma County? _____

How long have you lived in California? _____

Person Interviewed

Adult's name _____

Adult's birthdate _____

Adult's birthplace _____

Adult's mother's (maiden) name _____

Adult's father's name _____

Names of adult's brothers and sisters _____

If married, date and place of marriage _____

Name of spouse _____

How long have you lived in Sonoma County? _____

How long have you lived in California? _____

Resources

The **California Council for the Humanities** has an excellent “tool box” with information about how to conduct oral histories and how this project meets requirements for California State Standards. Visit the Council for the Humanities Web site at www.calhumevents.org/ResourceToolbox/teacher_home.htm. Teachers must register to use the site, but registration is free. Click on the option “California Writing Project materials for California Stories Uncovered in the Classroom.” The resource titled “If You’re Not from Gold Mountain” is particularly useful.

The **Library of Congress** offers excellent guidelines for how to conduct an oral history. Visit <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/oralhist/ohguide.html>.

Listening for a Change (formerly The Survivor Project) is a local nonprofit that promotes understanding and acceptance of human diversity through education, oral history and the arts. Its Community Listening Project provides workshops for individuals to learn to conduct oral histories with members of diverse communities. The nonprofit is currently posting a new Web site. The new Web address will be www.listeningforachange.org; the previous address is www.thesurvivorproject.org. Phone: (707) 578-5420. Email: info@listeningforachange.org.

Veteran’s History Project – This national project is compiling the stories of U.S. Veterans. Interview tips and questions are available at <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/questions.html>. The Web site includes tips that may be useful whether a student is interviewing a veteran or someone who is not a veteran.

Instant Oral Biographies: How to tape record, video or film your life stories, by William Zimmerman. 1988. Available in the Sonoma County Library Genealogy Collection, 929.1 Zimmerman.