



Hawaii Youth Symphony  
*Learn | Perform | Grow*

## 1st Annual Essay Contest

### Eligibility

This contest is open to all HYS students enrolled in the 2008-2009 season. There is no cost to enter the contest.

### Award Categories and Prizes

	<u>Division I: Grades 10-12</u>	<u>Division II: Grades 7-9</u>	<u>Division III: Grades 3-6</u>
Gold Medal	\$150	\$80	\$50
Silver Medal	\$100	\$60	\$30



### Rules

- All entries must be received or postmarked by October 31, 2008.
- Contestants may submit only one essay entry during any given contest year.
- Entries must be original essays with limited guidance from others.
- HYS reserves the right to edit, publish or duplicate any essay entry without payment to the author. Authorship will be noted whenever practical.
- If more than one page is needed for the essay portion, all pages, including bibliography (if necessary) should be numbered as follows: 1 of 2, 2 of 2, etc.
- Each entry must include a cover page, downloadable from [www.HiYouthSymphony.org/essay](http://www.HiYouthSymphony.org/essay) or available at the HYS office.
- Eligible essays must address the topics and abide by allowable word count as stated below.
- Though not required, research efforts to support ideas will be given points. Students should properly cite interviews or copyrighted material used in the essay. Citations to include in ( ), foot or endnotes: author, title of work, publication, page # or web-site. Citations should not be included in word count. Entries that fail to identify non-original material will be disqualified. If there is additional information used for research but not cited, sources should appear in bibliography attached to essay.

### Judging

- Each entry will be assigned a number upon receipt. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and first page of the essay. The title page will be detached and retained by the HYS office. Judges will only see assigned numbers on the essays.
- All entries will be judged by the same panel. Judges will not discuss or compare essays until all entries have been judged.
- Winning entries must receive a minimum of 50 points (out of 100) from each judge.
- Only judges can assign points according to judging criteria (for judging criteria, go to [www.HiYouthSymphony.org/essay](http://www.HiYouthSymphony.org/essay)).

## 2008-2009 Essay Topics and Format

### Division I (grades 10-12)

500-1,000 words (each word counts), typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins  
Address at least two of the following questions in one cohesive essay.

- **What defines a musician?**
- **Who is your favorite orchestral musician and what did they do to become great?**
- **Why is orchestral music important to our music community?**

### Division II (grades 7-9)

500-750 words (each word counts), typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins  
Address at least two of the following questions in one cohesive essay.

- **What defines a musician?**
- **How does playing an instrument impact other areas of life?**
- **Why has orchestral music stood the test of time?**

### Division III (grades 3-6)

250 words, typed, 12-pt font, double-spaced or legibly handwritten. Answer both questions in your essay.

- **Why do you like orchestral music?**
- **What is your favorite piece of orchestral music and why?**



Call the HYS office if you have any questions: 941-9706. Good luck!



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### 1st Annual Essay Contest

*Giving HYS students a forum to express their musical ideas outside of the rehearsal hall*

### Contest Entry Title Page

Please attach this form to your essay  
Print or type

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Essay Division (circle one) I (grades 10-12)    II (grades 7-9)    III (grades 3-6)

Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Current HYS group \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

We certify that the student named above:

- 1) Has read, understands and accepts the rules of this essay contest.
- 2) Is submitting original work that s/he personally wrote in its entirety for this essay contest.
- 3) Has not published this essay before, and any reference material used in this essay has been properly cited and not plagiarized.

We release HYS and its agents from any liability arising in connection with or resulting from the student's participation in this essay contest.

We grant HYS and anyone authorized by HYS to publish the essay (or any part) in any present or future media in perpetuity. We agree to allow HYS to use the student's name, biographic data, photos or any likeness in connection with the essay without compensation. HYS will make every attempt to credit authorship whenever any part of the essay is published or cited.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Essays with this completed cover sheet attached, must be postmarked or received at the HYS office by October 31, 2008.

Hawaii Youth Symphony  
Essay Contest  
1110 University Avenue, Suite 200  
Honolulu, HI 96826-1508

For more information visit [www.HiYouthSymphony.org](http://www.HiYouthSymphony.org) or contact the HYS office at 941-9706.



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## 1st Annual Essay Contest Judging Criteria

Judging will be based on the following criteria. Essays can receive a maximum of 100 points. Winning essays must have a minimum of 50 points from each judge.

Judges will use points to rank entries in each category. Total ranking from all judges will determine winners.

Criteria	Allowable Points
<b>Originality, Creativity, Depth of Thoughts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creative approach or presentation</li><li>• Use of examples or personal experiences to support thoughts</li><li>• Originality of ideas, not simply a compilation or repeat of other's ideas</li><li>• Evidence of thought and exploration</li></ul>	40
<b>Organization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ideas are well organized</li><li>• Writing flows logically</li><li>• Continuity throughout essay</li><li>• Addresses essay question(s)</li></ul>	20
<b>Mechanics and Style</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proper grammar, punctuation and spelling (max. 7.5 pts)</li><li>• Style &amp; craftsmanship: word choice, sentence structure, use of language (max. 7.5 pts)</li></ul>	15
<b>Impressions and Effectiveness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Essay is effective to its purpose</li><li>• Judge's impressions or gut reactions to essay</li><li>• Captures the spirit of the contest: <i>to give students a forum to express their musical ideas outside of the rehearsal hall.</i></li></ul>	15
<b>Effort to Seek Knowledge from Other Sources</b> (research, interviews, etc.) While not necessary, essays will gain credit for research, whether through reading or oral sources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Depth and usage of research to support original ideas (max. 6 pts)</li><li>• Proper usage and citation of quotes or paraphrases (max. 4 pts)</li></ul>	10
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	100