

2nd Annual

# PO'OHALA ESSAY CONTEST

**Topics** Choose *one* of the following topics to write about.

1) **GOOD HABITS**

Good habits improve our physical, emotional, and/or financial health. Select one of your good habits and write an essay persuading readers to make that habit a part of their lives.

2) **INSPIRATIONAL PERSON**

Name an inspirational person (past or present) that you look up to and admire. It doesn't have to be someone you've met in person. Tell why you admire this person and how they have impacted your community and others.

3) **CORE VALUES**

Having values in life help you to navigate what decisions to make, decide if something is right or wrong, and it defines who you are as a person. Name one core value and argue the importance and/or impact of it on others.

4) **SOCIAL MEDIA**

What are the positive and negative effects of social media, and how can it be used wisely?

## Rules & Guidelines

- Must be an 8th grader at Maui Waena Intermediate School during the 2013-2014 school year.
- Only one entry can be submitted per student. All essays must be written in English.
- Choose one question from the list above and write a 2-4 page essay.
- All essays *must* follow the MLA format.
- Maui Waena Language Arts teachers will narrow down the essays to the Top 40 and submit them to essay committee members. Committee members will select the winners.
- Essays will be evaluated on critical thinking, vocabulary, grammar, organization, and overall impact.
- Each essay must be the original works of each student. Plagiarism is not allowed.
- Any quotation or copyrighted materials used must be properly identified using a bibliography and/or proper citation. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.

## Background

The Po'ohala Essay Contest is Maui Waena Intermediate School's first community-partnered essay contest. It was started in memory of Maui Waena alumnus Po'ohala Atay. The essay contest was founded by Brittany Yap and Roderick Pontemayor, with the support of Po'ohala's 'ohana. The essay contest is in partnership with the Friends of Maui Waena. Winners will be announced at the 8th grade banquet in May. To see last year's winners, visit [www.brittlyap.com/essay-contest](http://www.brittlyap.com/essay-contest). For information, please see your Language Arts teacher.

## Deadline

THURSDAY  
APRIL 17, 2014

## PRIZES

**\$300** 1st Place   **\$200** 2nd Place   **\$100** 3rd Place   **\$50** 4th & 5th Place

Honorable Mention winners will be awarded a gift card.