



World History Association

The 2012 World Historian Student Essay Competition Sponsored by Mark Welter | Presented by the World History Association

This is an international student competition that will be judged in two categories: K-12 students and community college students. A prize of \$500 will be awarded to a student in each category. Mark Welter, recognizing the importance of encouraging young scholars, has established this annual prize.

Each competitor will submit an essay that addresses the issue:

“In what way has the study of world history affected my understanding of the world in which I live?”

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to students enrolled in grades K-12 in public, private, and parochial schools, and those in home-study programs. A separate category is open to students enrolled in the community college system. Membership in the World History Association is not a requirement for submission. Past winners may not compete in the same category again.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

The committee will judge papers according to the following criteria:

1. Clear thesis
2. Elaboration on the thesis with specific, concrete, personal example(s).
3. Evidence of critical-thinking, such as synthesis and evaluation, when reflecting on the essay question.
4. Overall effectiveness of the student’s ability to communicate what he/she thought about world history both before and after taking a course in it. In other words, how well has the student described the experience of being changed by a better understanding of world history?

Areas for consideration in the essays may include, but are by no means limited by, the following:

1. The relationship between humanity and the environment.
2. The exchange of ideas across cultures throughout history.
3. The impact of technology (agricultural, military, & communications) throughout history.
4. The implications of the increasing political, social, economic, and cultural interdependence of humanity.

ESSAY GUIDELINES

Length: Submissions for the K-12 World Historian Award should be approximately 1,000 words. Submissions for the Community College World Historian Award should be approximately 1,500 words.

Formatting: Number all pages except for the title page, and all pages are to be double-spaced. Use 12 pt. Times New Roman font. All margins – left and right and top and bottom – are to be one inch. Submissions must be composed in Microsoft Word.

A title page should include the following identifying information: name, title of paper, home address, telephone number, e-mail address, and name of school.

All essays must be in English and must be the student’s original work.

Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by OCTOBER 1, 2012.

Late entries and papers that do not adhere to these guidelines will be disqualified.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Class Submissions

Teachers who organize class submissions should mail or email all papers in one Word document, divided by student paper. Name and identifying information, see #2 below, should be listed at the top of the title page of each paper. Send a separate Word document with your name, school information, and the number of student papers you are submitting. Once you have organized your submissions, please follow the general instructions below.

GENERAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION (For individual student submissions and group class submissions)

To submit your materials by e-mail, send the following as separate attachments on the same e-mail (all attachments must be formatted in MS Word):

1. Your essay submission
2. A page with identifying information (author, title of paper, home address, telephone number, e-mail address, and name of school.)

Send the e-mail to: SmithSusan@District279.org

In the subject line of the e-mail write either: "World Historian K-12" or "World Historian CC"

To submit your material by mail:

Send five copies of the paper and five copies of the page with identifying information. In the lower left hand corner on the front of the envelope write either "World Historian K-12" or "World Historian CC"

Send these materials to: Susan Smith, Prize Awards Coordinator
Maple Grove Senior High School
9800 Fernbrook Lane N.
Maple Grove, MN 55369

The World History Association reserves the right to publish in the *World History Bulletin* any essay (or portion thereof) submitted to the competition. It will do so solely at its discretion, but full acknowledgment of authorship will be given. If someone's essay is published, in whole or in part, the author will receive three (3) copies of that issue of the *Bulletin*.

Questions about the competition should be e-mailed to Susan Smith: SmithSusan@District279.org.

AWARDS

Winners in each category will receive a \$500 prize and a certificate. In the event that the panel of judges considers that the quality of the entries does not warrant the awarding of any prizes, the judges shall have the right to make no awards available.

Winners will be notified after December 1, 2012.

ABOUT DR. MARK WELTER

Dr. Mark Welter began teaching world history in 1963. He has been a member of the World History Association since 1984. After instructing at the secondary level for seven years, he earned a doctorate at the University of Minnesota. He then began teaching his self-authored world history course at St. Cloud State University. Today he instructs world history and world religion courses for the University of Minnesota Senior Citizens Program.

Dr. Welter's teaching is predicated upon the philosophy articulated by William H. McNeill that "Teaching world history is a high and noble undertaking because only world history offers the sufficient dimensions of space and time to elicit needed awareness of the world we all share."