

Thanks-Giving Square



NATIONAL THANKSGIVING *EXPRESSIONS* COMPETITION OFFERS CASH PRIZES TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

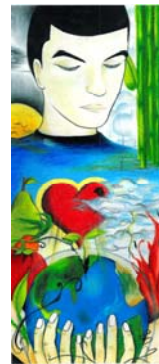
Dear Educator:

August 25, 2011

What value do your students place on gratitude? They all learned to say “thank you” early in life, but how much time do they spend thinking about what they are grateful for in their lives?

The Thanks-Giving Foundation is pleased once again to present a terrific teaching opportunity about thanksgiving and gratitude that will inspire your students to think creatively. It’s a chance for them to participate in an exciting competition through essays and art, with the opportunity to win some prize money for themselves and their teachers!

We invite your students to participate in the 7th annual **Thanksgiving *Expressions* Competition 2011**, highlighting education and the arts which find common ground in thanksgiving. This Competition enhances student awareness of the Thanksgiving season. Our theme this year, *I am grateful to be here*, encourages students to express their gratitude for *why* they are here. Please see the attached [discussion questions](#) for your students. Last year’s theme, *I’m grateful for our planet*, produced amazing artwork, see below.



This year our competition is expanding from four to **five grade groups** and we’ve **increased our cash award for teachers**, which provides money for classroom supplies.

Cash Awards:

- **1st Place Winners - \$100 in each Grade Group and each Category**
- **Teachers of 1st Place Winners - \$300 for classroom supplies**

Teachers are limited to \$300, regardless of the number of winning entries. Principals from the winning schools will be presented with certificates during the awards ceremony. 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive recognition ribbons.

Grade Groups: The competition includes five grade groups:

- Grades K—2
- Grades 3—5
- Grades 6—8
- Grades 9—10
- Grades 11—12

Competition is open to students in all 50 states. International entries are welcome.

Entry Categories:

- **Visual Arts** – Original drawing or painting. Please see detailed information sheet.
- **Essays** – Original written works. Please see detailed information sheet.

Timeline:

- Entries accepted by mail & E-mail until **5 pm, Tuesday, November 1, 2011.**
- Schools notified of Grand Prize Winners starting Monday, November 7, 2011.
- **Awarding of Grand Prize Winners - Thursday, November 17, 2011, 10 am**

Send to:

- Alexis at ayancey@thanksgiving.org E-mail entries are preferred
- Or mail: Thanks-Giving Square P.O. Box 131770, Dallas, TX 75313

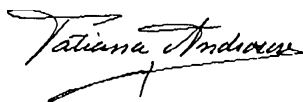
Entry Forms: [Entry forms](#) are attached and are also available online @ **thanksgiving.org**

Judging: Schools may submit **up to three of their best candidates' work in each category and each grade group.** A select group of judges will choose winners in each grade group and category. Winning entries will be **exhibited** at Thanks-Giving Square until year's end and at other public venues until May extending the reach of our students' messages of gratitude.

FYI: The Thanks-Giving Foundation runs Thanks-Giving Square in Dallas which is dedicated to thanksgiving and gratitude. Four **Dallas** businessmen were themselves inspired in the early 60s to create a heart space in the center of the city's downtown area. The result is a beautiful park with rushing water, scenic settings, a spiral tower museum and chapel with world famous stained glass windows, and a mosaic of Norman Rockwell's painting **The Golden Rule**, the original of which is found at UN Headquarters in New York.

Please share this information with other educators at your school and those you know in other states via E-mail, and copy entry forms as needed. Contact Alexis Yancey at ayancey@thanksgiving.org or (214) 335-4744. We look forward to receiving your students' creative essays and artistic expressions this year.

Tatiana Androsov, Senior Advisor Alexis Yancey, **Expressions** Competition Director



Questions? E-mail Alexis at ayancey@thanksgiving.org or call **214-335-4744.**

Thanks-Giving Square • PO Box 131770 • Dallas, TX 75313 • 214-969-1977
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Expressions Essay Competition: 2011 Theme: *I'm grateful to be here.*

Purpose: *Expressions* highlights education and arts. The competition encourages students to express their cultural and/or personal perspective on the theme, *I'm grateful to be here.*

Grade Groups: Schools submit up to three of their best candidates' work per grade group.

- Grades K–2
- Grades 3–5
- Grades 6–8
- Grades 9–10
- Grades 11–12

Description:

- Essays must not exceed 2,000 words and fit on two 8½" by 11" pages.
- Mailed entries may be on any paper. Please do not mount or frame.
- Scanned entries must be originals, hand written or typed, and e-mailed as JPEGs or PDFs
- Entries need to be legible reflecting grade appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- The student's or school's **name must not appear on the entry** to insure judging impartiality.
- An **entry form** must be submitted with each entry and include a **title**.

Originality: Each student's creativity is important. All entries are judged on artistic merit and interpretation of the theme. Teacher assistance allowed under certain circumstances:

- Entries may be typed for the student along the **original work attached**.
- Physically challenged students, kindergarten and first graders may dictate their work.
- Transcribers must accurately reflect the student's original work.

Translation: Students for whom English is a second language may submit writing entries in another language. An interpretive translation must accurately reflect the student's original work and accompany the student's original entry.

Deadline: All entries are due by **5 pm, Tuesday, November 1, 2011.** See cover letter.

Release Form:

- Grand prize winning students must have a parent or guardian sign a standard Thanks-Giving Square publicity release form for photos and displayed work.
- Grand prize winners and their teachers will sign a receipt for their prizes.

Return of Original Work: Please note that non-winning entries will be available for pick up November 21 to 23 from 11:30 am and 1:30 pm at Thanks-Giving Square. Non-winning entries remaining at the Square after November 23 will not be returned. Winning entries will be exhibited and available for pick up at the Square, May 1 through May 31, 2012, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

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Expressions Visual Art Competition: 2011 Theme: *I'm grateful to be here.*

Purpose: *Expressions* highlights education and the arts. The competition encourages students to express their cultural and/or personal perspectives on the theme, *I'm grateful to be here.*

Grade Groups: Schools submit up to **three of their best candidates' work per grade group.**

- Grades K–2
- Grades 3–5
- Grades 6–8
- Grades 9–10
- Grades 11–12

Description:

- Only original flat drawings and paintings are acceptable. No 3D or collages.
- Scanned entries of originals must be E-mailed as JPEG or PDF attachments.
- Mailed Entries must be flat, not exceed 8½" x 11", including mats/borders, no laminating.
- Mailed entries may be submitted on paper, canvas, cardboard, pressboard, foam board, or canvas board, not to exceed ½" thickness.
- Student's or school's **name must not appear on the art** to insure judging impartiality.
- Tape the completed entry form to the back of the artwork, if mailed.
- An **entry form must be submitted with each entry and include a *title*.**

Deadline: All entries are due by **5 pm, Tuesday, November 1, 2011.** See cover letter.

Release Form:

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Thanksgiving *Expressions* Competition 2011 Theme: *I'm grateful to be here.*

Entry Form (duplicate as needed)

- **Schools are limited to only 3 entries per Grade Group and Category.**
- **This form must accompany each entry.**

Name of student nominee: _____

Grade group: _____ Grade level: _____

Category (art/written word): _____

Title of work: _____

OPTIONAL Student Statement: What inspired you to create this work?

Winning Student's Nominating Teacher: _____

Department: _____ Teacher's Phone number: _____

Teacher's email address (required): _____

School Name: _____ District: _____

School Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ School phone: _____

Name of other Contact person: _____ Phone: _____

If Teacher Assistance is provided, please describe on back of this Entry Form.

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Expressions 2011 Suggested Questions for Discussion

The *Expressions* 2011 theme, *I am grateful to be here*, opens your students' imagination to express their gratitude in multiple ways. Here are some discussion points.

What does *being grateful* mean? What is another way to say it?

What are actions you might take if you are grateful for something?

Express your gratitude for *why* you are here. Would your family be different without you-your classroom, your friends or your neighborhood etc?

What does the word *here* mean? What is *here* for you?

(Young children probably mean home, school, neighborhood and city. Older students would expand to state, country, nation, world, planet, etc. *Here* could also mean alive.)

Does *being grateful* involve responsibilities? Why or why not?

Give three reasons you are grateful to be *here*. Explain why you chose these reasons.

Questions? E-mail Alexis at ayancey@thanksgiving.org or call 214-335-4744.