

Lincoln Bicentennial Essay Contest

Theme: Lincoln, Miami and the American Dream

Lincoln's life and actions demonstrate his commitment to American democratic ideals and values such as personal freedom and equality of opportunity. One can find many similarities between the values and ideals of Lincoln and the motivational factors that have influenced so many people, past and present, to venture to our nation and our community.

This essay contest offers students an opportunity to learn more about the life, values, and contributions of Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln Bicentennial Essay Contest

This contest is open to students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Students must utilize the appropriate grade prompt which is provided. Final submissions should be of the required length depending on the grade level of the student, and can be handwritten or typed.

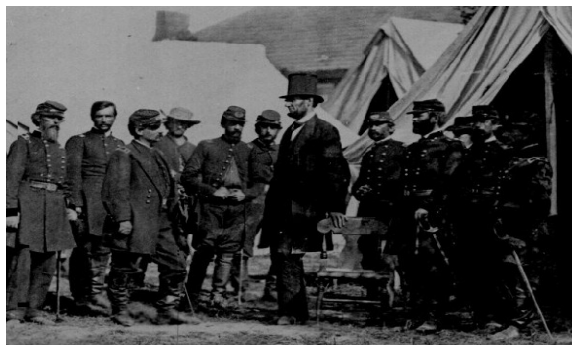
Teachers can use the pre-writing organizer and the appropriate Florida Writes! scoring rubric found in the appendices of this document to help guide writing instruction and to score the essays.

It is anticipated that winning essays will be published in *The Miami Herald*.

Awards will be provided to the first, second, and third place winner in each category.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Depending on the grade configuration of the school, entries for more than one grade level category are permissible. Elementary schools may have entries for grades 1-2 and 3-5. K-8 Centers may have entries in grades 1-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Schools with a grade configuration of 7-9, may have entries in grades 6-8 and 9-12.



Lincoln Bicentennial Essay Contest Writing Prompts

Prompt for Grades 1 and 2:

Abraham Lincoln was one of our best presidents because he believed in and lived democratic ideals. Think about one good quality President Abraham Lincoln practiced in his life. Now write to explain how President Lincoln practiced this quality.

To the Teacher:

- Essays for grades 1-2 should be limited to 100 words.
- Students are also encouraged to illustrate their essay with original artwork.
- Essays completed by students in grades 1 and 2 will be judged together.

Prompt for Grades 3-5:

Abraham Lincoln was one of our greatest presidents because he believed in and lived American democratic ideals, such as freedom, equality, integrity, and honesty. Think about the times in his life when President Lincoln demonstrated several of these ideals. Now write to explain how President Lincoln demonstrated several of these qualities in his life.

To the Teacher:

- Essays for students in grades 3-5 should be limited to 250 words.
- Essays completed by students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will be judged together.

Prompt for Grades 6-8 and 9-12

Abraham Lincoln's American ideals and beliefs enabled him to demonstrate the characteristics of an outstanding citizen. After reflecting on what you're learned about his life and accomplishments, write to explain how President Lincoln demonstrated the qualities of an outstanding citizen, and how his actions and contributions continue to influence the citizens of our country and our community today.

To the Teacher:

- The same prompt is being utilized for students in grades 6-8 and 9-12.
- Students at the middle and high school levels should be encouraged to cite historical examples to support their arguments.
- Essays for students in grades 6-8 should be limited to 500 words.
- Essays for students in grades 9-12 should be limited to 750 words.

Lincoln Bicentennial Essay Contest Timeline

All Miami-Dade County Public Schools are strongly encouraged to participate in the Lincoln Bicentennial Essay contest.

The following is the timeline for all schools participating in the **Lincoln Bicentennial Essay Contest**. The timeline includes successful implementation of the lessons found in this instructional resource packet and the participation of students in the essay contest. Adherence to the timeline is imperative.

August 31 – September 16	Program implementation in all classes; i.e., read biographies, complete class lessons, outline essays.
September 17 – September 21	Write, revise, complete essays for submission.
September 22 – September 25	Schools score essays
September 28	Each school's top essay for each grade level category is delivered to the Regional Center for final judging (Categories Grades 1-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12)
September 28	Participation Reporting Form is forwarded to the Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills, by all schools via fax (305-995-1492). (See Appendix 11 in this packet.)
September 29 – October 5	Regional Center scores essays from all schools in the Regional Center
October 5	One winning essay for each grade level category is selected by the Regional Center and delivered or e-mailed to the Division of Social Sciences & Life Skills attn: jdoyle@dadeschools.net
October 9	One winning essay for each grade level category is selected by a District committee (Categories Grades 1-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12)
October 14	Essay winners honored at the School Board Meeting (Tentative)

For information about the Lincoln Bicentennial Essay Contest, contact Mr. John R. Doyle, Administrative Director, Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills, at 305-995-1982 or by e-mail at jdoyle@dadeschools.net