

# Blueprint COMMUNITIES

## Essay Contest Rules

### Who Can Enter?

The 2005 *Blueprint Communities* Essay Contest is open to students in grades 6 through 8 enrolled in public, private and parochial schools who reside within a community selected as a 2005 *Blueprint Communities* participant. 2005 *Blueprint Communities* are:

#### *Eastern:*

- Berwick–LaSalle Street
- Hamburg
- Kennett Square–East Linden
- Lebanon–Northwest
- Norris Square (Philadelphia)
- Reading–Callowhill
- Tamaqua
- Tioga (Philadelphia)

#### *Western:*

- Aliquippa
- Brownsville–Downtown/Northside
- Canonsburg
- Carnegie
- Connellsville
- Etna
- Hazelwood (Pittsburgh)
- Irwin
- Larimer (Pittsburgh)
- McKeesport
- New Kensington–Downtown
- Uniontown–East End
- Waynesburg
- Wilkinsburg

Each entrant can submit *only one essay* for the contest. Children of Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh employees are not eligible to participate.

### What Do I Write About?

A "blueprint" is a plan for the best way to *build* something – a car, a house, a career, a future.  
What would be *your* blueprint for making your community a better place to live?

### How Long Should My Essay Be?

Essays must be no more than 500 words. They must be typewritten and double-spaced on 8.5x11-inch white paper, with one-inch margins surrounding each page. Your first and last names should appear in the top right corner of each page. Pages must be stapled and numbered.

### How Will My Essay Be Judged?

Judging will be performed by an independent panel using the Pennsylvania Writing Assessment Domain Scoring Guide. Essays will be scored in five areas worth four (4) points each (maximum 20 points):

- *Focus* (adherence to topic)
- *Content* (strong development/elaboration of ideas)
- *Organization* (sophisticated arrangement of content)
- *Style* (use of words, structure, voice and tone appropriate for audience)
- *Conventions* (grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage, sentence formation)

### When and How Do I Submit My Essay?

Prepare two (2) copies of your essay, making certain the pages are numbered and your first and last names are included on the top right corner of each page. Submit both copies, with completed *and signed* entry forms, to your teacher by **Monday, October 17, 2005**. Entries received after October 17 will not be accepted. Please remember to keep a copy of your essay for your records.

### Prizes

Judges will select 22 winning essays, one each from the participating *Blueprint Communities*, and each winner will receive a cash prize of \$100. From these essays, one essay each from an eastern and western Blueprint Community will receive a cash prize of \$500. The 22 \$100 local prizewinners will be notified in mid-November. The two \$500 grand prizewinners will be notified in mid-December. The Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh reserves the right to verify the eligibility qualifications of any winner.

**NOTE: A completed and signed entry form must be attached to each copy of your essay.**

For more information, visit [www.blueprintcommunities.com](http://www.blueprintcommunities.com) or send e-mail to [blueprint@fhfb-pgh.com](mailto:blueprint@fhfb-pgh.com).