

OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH LANGUAGE FAIR

Topical Essay

Category Description and Guidelines

Students are invited to prepare an essay on the topic: Growing in My Language. Many entries contain introductions, sentences or words in the author’s Native language, but this *essay should be primarily in English*. The Fair encourages students to be aware of the issues surrounding the importance of Native Language learning and to be language advocates for their communities.

Category	Age Ranges				Size		Award		
	P-2	3-5	6-8	9-12	Group	Individual	Trophy	Ribbon	Medal
Written Poetry				✓		✓		✓	If present

DO

- ✓ Pre-register online
- ✓ PRINTED: Double-space, 12 pt. font, about 1000 words or 2-3 pages
- ✓ Can be handwritten
- ✓ Email the essay to onaylf.samnoblemuseum@ou.edu

DON'T

- ✗ Plagiarize. Work must be original.
- ✗ Write entirely in Native languages; the essay should be primarily in English

Essay Delivery

We must receive all material submissions *on or before the material submissions deadline posted on the website*. We accept these electronic formats: *.doc*, *.docx*, *.pdf*. You can email, put in our on-line DropBox, print and mail or drop off your entry. Please be sure to include your name, grade, school and teacher’s name, tribal affiliation and Native languages you speak (or are learning) at the top of the first page. **PLEASE:** If you email your essay, label the file this way: ONAYLF_year_Essay_Lastname. *For example*, ONAYLF_2019,_Essay_Johnson.

Judging Essay Submissions

Material submissions are pre-judged before the Fair. A panel of at least three elders, Native language teachers, language advocates, and/or university professors will judge essays on these criteria:

- Goal of the essay
- Impact of written expression
- Spirit of the essay
- Clarity of writing
- The author of the winning essay will be requested to read it aloud at the Fair if present.

Notes

- You must pre-register to receive t-shirts and awards. Please do so as early as possible.
- Make sure you keep a copy of your essay just in case there are problems with delivery.
- Questions? Comments? Help? Contact us at onaylf.samnoblemuseum@ou.edu or at (405) 325-7588.

By entering a material submissions category, you are agreeing to allow the ONAYLF and/or Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History to retain a digital copy or scan of your material submission. This record will become part of the Native American Language collection at SNOMNH and is open access (but is not copyrighted to the museum). It may also be used in promotion of the ONAYLF, in Native language teacher training workshops, or in related NAL programs.