



# 全美中小学中文教师协会

Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools

## The Twelfth National CLASS Essay Contest

### OFFICIAL RULES

(Revised April 2015)

1. The contestant must be a student currently enrolled in a Mandarin Chinese program during the current school year at an elementary school, a middle school or a high school that is fully accredited by the regional Accreditation institutions like Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), or is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).
2. The instructor of the contestant must be **a current member** of the Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools (CLASS). The annual membership fee (\$40.00 as of April 2015) must be paid by the instructor before students are eligible to compete.
3. Essays must be written on the paper with writing chart provided and hand written legibly. Any illegible writing will result in deducted points.
4. Eligibility of Contest Entry: All entries must be student's original independent work\*. No contestant may use an essay by another contestant in previous years or resubmit an essay that was a previous submission. CLASS reserves\*\* the right to disqualify contestants with identical essays.
5. It is the responsibility of the instructor to place each of his/her students in the most appropriate category commensurate with the student's background and training. CLASS reserves the right to disqualify a contestant who provides false background and training information.
6. Each contestant must agree to compete in his/her assigned division and category as outlined below.

#### 一 . Categories: students' language background information

Category A: students who are non-native speakers of Chinese in a regular foreign language program

Category B: Students who are heritage learners

Category C: Students who have been in an immersion program regardless of first language background.

#### 二 . Divisions: students' starting entry point to learn Chinese and the current level

##### Division I

Beginner K-5: Students who started learning Chinese as a beginner in elementary school

Beginner 6-8: Students who started learning Chinese as a beginner in middle school

Beginner 9-12: Students who started learning Chinese as a beginner in high school

### **Division II**

Intermediate 6-8: Students who started learning Chinese at elementary school and continued at the middle school level

Intermediate 9-12: Students who started learning Chinese at middle school and continued at the high school level

### **Division III**

Advanced 9-12: Students who started learning Chinese at elementary school and continued at the middle school through high school level

- **Example of group coding:** a student grouped in **C-II-7** means this is a seventh grader who has been in an immersion program since elementary school.

7. This year's topic is: **我收到的最好的礼物**

\*\* Note:

(1) 请以记叙文体书写

(2) The word 礼物 can be a non-material gift.

8. Submission: The instructor should send the **students entries** (one hard copy, electronic files if applicable) along with **CLASS Essay Contest Entry** and **Pledge Form** (the form can be downloaded at [www.classk12.org](http://www.classk12.org)) **no later than Friday, October 2, 2015** to:

Ms. Ying Jin  
Cupertino High School  
10100 Finch Avenue  
Cupertino, California 95014  
[essaycontest.class@gmail.com](mailto:essaycontest.class@gmail.com)

#### **\*Definition of "Original Independent Work"**

Essay must be drafted and written by individual student author. No online translator is allowed for creating any part of the text. No parental or teacher assistance/editing is allowed. Proper citation is required if others' words are quoted or employed.

**\*\*Please note:** CLASS Student Essay Judging Committee reserves the right to reject any entry that is under the suspicion of plagiarism or tempered with more sophisticated authorship. If two judges raise the suspicion based on their professional knowledge, a third authoritative figure such as CLASS president or a board member will be consulted to make the final decision. Teachers and administrators are expected to model and reinforce ethical behaviors.

#### **Prizes**

Essay contest winners will be announced at the CLASS membership meeting at ACTFL Annual Convention in November every year. There will be **Golden Apple**, **Silver Apple** and **Honorable Mention** awards. All participants in the contest will receive a CLASS certificate of participation.

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## Scoring Rubric

- I. Comprehensibility
4. Writing effectively conveys message and requires no interpretation.
  3. Writing clearly conveys message and requires minimal interpretation.
  2. Writing requires interpretation on the part of the reader.
  1. Writing is barely comprehensible.
- II. Ideas and Content
4. They are clear, accurate and focused with supporting details.
  3. There are believable details to support the main ideas.
  2. Presents basic development but not enough details.
  1. Lacks central topic.
- III. Word Choice and Discourse
4. Demonstrates creative use of words and cohesive devices.
  3. Demonstrates adequate use of words and some use of cohesive devices.
  2. Shows repetitive words and no cohesive devices.
  1. Shows erroneous or poor choice of words and incomplete sentences.
- IV. Syntax and Accuracy
4. Demonstrate excellent command of language use.
  3. Demonstrate good control of language structure.
  2. Show developing use of language structure.
  1. Show merging use of language structure most of the time.
- V. Presentation and Characters
4. Demonstrates effective use of characters with few or no errors through handwriting.
  3. Demonstrates effective use of characters with occasional errors in completing thoughts through handwriting.
  2. Shows frequent errors in characters in presenting thoughts through handwriting.
  1. Shows much inaccuracy in writing characters in presenting thoughts through handwriting.