

César E. Chávez Essay Contest 2016



Awards	Grades	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Division II	3-5	\$55	\$35	\$20
Division III	6-8	\$70	\$50	\$30
Division IV	9-12	\$90	\$70	\$40

Introductory Statement

César E. Chávez: A Legacy of Service and Conviction (1927-1993)

On March 31, 2016, Californians across the state will join together to celebrate the birth of César E. Chávez, a man who committed his life to helping and improving the lives of others. CSU Stanislaus is pleased to recognize and celebrate Mr. Chavez' life and work during the twentieth annual César E. Chávez Day Celebration and Service and Learning on **Tuesday, March 15, 2016**.

As President of the United Farm Workers of America, he founded and led the first successful farm workers union in history.

This is the legacy that we celebrate and seek to share with our children and all Californians through the César E. Chávez Day of Service and Learning. César was, in all material respects, an ordinary man. What made his life extraordinary were the values that he put into action on a daily basis. There are 10 universal values that guided César as a family man, labor leader, civil rights leader, spiritualist, social entrepreneur, environmentalist, and community servant. César steadfastly believed that ordinary people can make extraordinary social change when they are individually guided by, and bound together by, universal values and common vision for a better world.

The **10 universal values** that César E. Chávez strove to live out in all his endeavors include: Service to Others, Sacrifice, A Preference to Help the Most Needy, Determination, Non-Violence, Tolerance, Respect for Life, Celebrating Community, Knowledge, and Innovation.

Essay Divisions and Content Requirements

Division II (*Grades 3-5*) **250 - 500 Word Essay**

Division III (*Grades 6-8*) **250 - 500 Word Essay**

Division IV (*Grades 9-12*) **500 - 800 Word Essay**

1. Prepare for your essay by researching the life and values of César E. Chávez in books and on the internet.
2. In your opening paragraph(s), write a brief biographical sketch of the life of César E. Chávez.
3. Next, describe how César E. Chávez's work reflected two of his ten universal values listed above.
4. Explain which of these values is most important in your life and why.

Entries must be delivered to CSU Stanislaus, John Stuart Rogers Faculty Development Center, no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, February 19, 2016. Notification of winners by: March 9, 2016.



(See Reverse Side for more contest information)

César E. Chávez Essay Contest 2016

Rules

1. The César E. Chávez Essay Contest is open to all third through twelfth grade students attending any public, private, or home school in Stanislaus County.
2. Submit one copy of your essay. Essay must be either typewritten or neatly written in dark ink and double spaced. Use one side only of white paper 8 1/2 x 11 inches. Number the pages consecutively. Your essay must be of a quality to photocopy legibly.
3. Attach an index card with your name, mailing address (including city and zip code), and telephone number. Also, include your school, grade, and *teacher's name and e-mail address* on the index card. **Your name should NOT be on or in the essay.**
4. Cite any quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge. If you are uncertain about plagiarism, ask your teacher.
5. You must do your own work. However, you may ask a teacher, parent, or friend for constructive criticism.
6. *Entries upon submission become the property of the CSU Stanislaus.* CSU Stanislaus reserves the right to reprint entries. **Entries will not be returned.**
7. **All entries** must be **received no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, February 19, 2016.** You may hand deliver or mail your entry to: CSU Stanislaus, John Stuart Rogers Faculty Development Center, Attn: Brett Forray, room 106, One University Circle, Turlock, CA 95382. (*Please note: if entry is mailed, it must be received by February 22, 2016.*)

Entries not meeting requirements may be screened out.

Judging

A distinguished group of local writers, educators, and César E. Chávez Community Celebration Planning Committee members will judge the essays. Judging guidelines include:

1. Content: Does the essay demonstrate an understanding of the life accomplishments and values of César E. Chávez? Does it reflect César E. Chávez's value(s)?
2. Style: Is the essay original and interesting? Is it written with understanding and conviction? Does the personality of the writer come through?
3. Clarity of expression: Are the ideas clearly stated? Is the essay well-organized? Does it have an effective beginning and ending?
4. Mechanics: Is grammar, spelling, and punctuation reasonably correct? Does the author cite all quotes, borrowed ideas, and the facts that are not general knowledge? Does the essay stay within the word limit?

First, Second, and Third place prizes will be awarded in each of the three divisions which have at least 10 entries. In the event that fewer than 10 entries are entered in any division, all prizes may or may not be awarded in that division at the decision of the judging panel.

Notification of Winners

Winners will be notified by March 9, 2016. All winning entries will be displayed and cash prizes will be presented on **Tuesday, March 15, 2016** at the César E. Chávez Celebration (details to follow).

Questions? Contact: Brett Forray at (209) 667-3311 or e-mail at bforray@csustan.edu