

**Fourth Annual  
Atlanta Magazine Essay Contest For High School Students  
in partnership with VOX Teen Communications**

The essay contest is open to all high school students in the metro-Atlanta area. The purpose of the contest is to foster good writing, encourage young people to express themselves, and engage a new generation of Atlantans in the city's civic life.

The winning essay will be published in the April 2010 issue of *Atlanta Magazine*. Two runners-up will be published on atlantamagazine.com during April 2010.

The winner will receive a \$250 prize and earn a \$500 grant for his or her school's library. The runners-up will receive \$100 individual prizes and earn \$250 library grants for their schools.

**THE 2009 ESSAY TOPIC: JOBS**

Please select from **one** of the options.

1. Have you, or has someone in a family, lost a job in the past year? What has been the impact of this job loss? How does losing a job have an effect on more than just the individual who is unemployed? What did you learn by losing a job or observing someone close to you lose theirs?
  
2. What job(s) have you have during high school? What have you learned by holding down a job while also being a high-school student?

**HOW THE ESSAYS ARE EVALUATED**

- Essays are judged on: clarity, expression, originality, and how clearly they answered the assigned topic. We also look at spelling, grammar, and attention to detail. Of course, plagiarism is grounds for instant disqualification.
- If you cite any numbers, facts, or statistics, please include a note at the end of the essay telling us what sources of information you used.
- The judging is conducted by *Atlanta* magazine editors and VOX staffers.

**GENERAL CONTEST RULES:**

- Essays should be 500-750 words (about two pages typed, double-spaced).
- Winners under the age of 18 will be required to submit letters signed by a parent or guardian in order to claim their prizes. See details below.
- Entries must be postmarked by November 10, 2009
- Entries must be accompanied by a signed release form (attached)
- NOTE: Teachers, if you are sending in essays as a class assignment you can include them all in one package, but each must have a release form.
- Please MAIL entries to:  
Atlanta Magazine High School Essay Contest  
260 Peachtree Street, Suite 300  
Atlanta GA 30303  
404-527-5500

**ATLANTA MAGAZINE HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST**  
**Entry Form, 2009-2010 Competition**

Essay Title .....

Student Name .....

Grade.....Age .....

School.....

Teacher (if done as class project) .....

Contact (phone or e-mail) .....

I have read the contest rules (below) and agree to abide by them. I verify that all work is my own. I understand that if I am a contest winner and under 18, a parent or guardian will need to sign a release form so I can claim a prize and my essay can be published.

Signature .....

**Mail Completed Essay and Entry Form by November 10, 2009, to:**

Essay Contest  
Atlanta Magazine  
260 Peachtree Street, Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30303

**CONTEST RULES**

Entrants in the Atlanta Magazine High School Essay Contest agree to these terms and conditions.

**ELIGIBILITY AND ODDS OF WINNING:** No purchases necessary to enter. Contest open to legal residents of the United States except family members of employees of Atlanta Magazine, Emmis Communications, affiliates, subsidiaries, and successor companies. For minors under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must sign a release for a winner to receive a prize and to have his or her essay published.

**RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:** One entry per person. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Atlanta Magazine and Emmis Communications assume no responsibility or liability whatsoever for damages, loss or injury resulting from participating in any contest or acceptance or use of any prize. Atlanta Magazine is not responsible for the late, misdirected, lost, misplaced, illegible, mutilated, or postage-due entries.

**DISQUALIFICATION AND PENALTIES:** All participants agree to be bound by these rules. Atlanta Magazine, in its sole discretion, further reserves the right to disqualify any person for (i) violating any of these rules, (ii) tampering with the entry process, (iii) gaining an unfair advantage in participating in the contest, (iv) obtaining winner status using fraudulent means, or (v) engaging in otherwise unsportsmanlike, disruptive, or threatening behavior.