

# A Bridge for Kids 9th Annual Essay Contest

## Essay Topic and Judging:

Eligible students (see contest rules and eligibility below) may enter the 2021 A Bridge for Kids Essay Contest by submitting an original essay of 750 words or fewer describing their thoughts on the following: *What is the one life experience that has best prepared you for your future? How did this experience impact you?* A panel of volunteers will judge the essays and the winners will be picked based on the creativity, originality, clarity and overall impact of the essay.

**Note: Deadline for entry is midnight on March 1, 2021. Winners will be announced week of April 12, 2021.**

## 2019 Contest Prizes:

1st Place - \$2,500 sponsorship  
2nd Place - \$1,000 sponsorship  
3rd-5th - \$500 Amazon Gift Card  
6th-10th - \$250 Amazon Gift Card

## Past Winners:

2020 Essay Contest Winner – Billy Nguyen, Lincoln High School  
2019 Essay Contest Winner- Alexandra Morales, The Preuss School, UCSD  
2018 Essay Contest Winner – Kevin Banks, Lincoln High School  
2017 Essay Contest Winner - Jonathan Bojorquez, Helix High School  
2016 Essay Contest Winner - *Kiara Gomez*, The Preuss School, UCSD  
2015 Essay Contest Winner - *Andria Montgomery*, Patrick Henry High School  
2014 Essay Contest Winner - *Virginia Reyes*, The Preuss School, UCSD  
2013 Essay Contest Winner - *Laura Castro*, The Preuss School, UCSD

## 2021 CONTEST RULES AND ELIGIBILITY

### Contest Eligibility and Rules:

- Contest is open to all High School students who currently qualify for the government sponsored free and reduced lunch program.
- To apply, students must be currently enrolled in high school.
- Contestants are encouraged to discuss the essay topic with teachers, parents or other friends but must write the essay by themselves, in his or her own words.
- Essays must be 750 words or less and double spaced.
- All essays must be in digital form (Microsoft Word or Google Docs preferred). *No PDF's, scanned or mailed essays will be accepted.* Essays should be sent via email only to [info@abridgeforkids.org](mailto:info@abridgeforkids.org). **The student should put his/her full name, current high school and their graduation year in the Subject line of the email AND on their essay (ex. Tim Jones-San Diego High School- Class of 2022).**
- Essays will be judged by a panel based on the creativity, originality, clarity and overall impact of the essay. Essays are judged blind, as all essays are assigned numbers and the panel will not have information (name, age or school) on the author.
- All winners will be contacted during the week of April 12, 2021.
- Winners parent/ guardian must sign a photo release form prior to receiving their sponsorship.
- To learn more about what is covered by A Bridge for Kids sponsorship please visit our web site at [abridgeforkids.org](http://abridgeforkids.org) and click on the "What We Do" tab.