



AIM HIGH 2012 Speech Writing Contest

Topics:

Select **one** of the following topics:

- Have you ever been discriminated against? If so, what was that experience like? If not, does racism still exist?
- What is it like growing up in Chicago? Pick a few topics and expand.
- Who is your role model? Why?
- Does self-image matter? If so, why or why not?

Awards:

Four finalists will be selected by an independent review panel and will receive prizes. The more students that enter, the larger the prizes will be. The finalists will deliver their speeches at the May 31st Year End Recognition. The audience will vote on a winner and the winner will deliver his/her speech at the Companies That Care annual dinner next fall.

Percentage of AIM High Students Participating	Prize for Finalists (\$)	Prize for Winner (\$)
<10%	\$0	\$0
11%-25%	\$25	\$100
26%-60%	\$50	\$200
61%-85%	\$75	\$300
86%-100%	\$100	\$500

1 First Prize: Winner will be invited to attend the 2012 Center for Companies that Care Annual Dinner benefiting the Aim High program with their parent(s)/guardian(s). The winner is expected to read their winning essay during the event. The winner's achievement will also be recognized in the evening's program. The winner will also receive a savings bond in the amount specified by the chart above.

3 Second Prizes: Three \$100 savings bonds will be awarded as Second Prizes to the next three highest scoring entries.

The students whose essays receive the four highest scores/ranking will be recorded reading their essays. The recordings will be re-played at the 2012 Center for Companies that Care Annual Dinner benefiting the Aim High.

Rules and requirements for entry:

- All AIM High students **MUST** submit an entry. There will be time allotted to writing speeches in after school sessions.
- A cover sheet **MUST** be included with each entry. The cover sheet **MUST** include: name of entrant, entrant's e-mail address; topic selected; and school of entrant.
- Essays should be between 4-5 pages in length, typewritten, and double-spaced. The number of pages does not include the cover page or title of the work.
- Essays must be submitted using Microsoft Word formats.
- Essay should be submitted electronically, via e-mail to the following address:
mailto: intern@companies-that-care.org
- Only one entry is permitted per student.
- Work must be solely the work of the entrant. Yet entrants may consult their mentors for guidance.
- There will be time during after school for students to write their speeches.
- Essay must be received no later than 5pm Central Daylight Time (CDT) on **Friday May 11th, 2012 for 15 incentive points**. There will not be any late entries accepted. Essay submissions will not be returned to the entrants.

Judging:

The essays will be evaluated for both style and content. Judges will look for writing that is clear, articulate, and logically organized. A points system will be used to assign each essay a value from 1 to 5, 5 being the highest, for both style and content. Each essay will be read by at least 3 judges and the average of the scores will be used to determine the finalists. Decisions of the judges are final.

Finalist will be notified by May 18th, 2012.

Speech Writing Tips

Organize your ideas – Make an outline of the key points you would like to cover in your speech. This will allow you to have clarity and insure that you remain on topic during your speech.

Know your audience – The people reading and listening to your speech may not know the meaning of some` slang words or events that you may think everyone knows. If you use slang in your speech make sure you put an explanation in parenthesis afterwards.

Say what you feel – The best speech writers communicate their personal experience in a way that lets others know exactly how they feel. This is your chance to tell others about your experience, and help make a difference.