

October, 2009

Dear School Counselor,

FreeWay Project (also referred to as FreeWay Foundation) is excited to sponsor a “Theme & Essay Contest” in observance of Red Ribbon Week. We are asking students to select a contest theme for our Annual Poster & Coloring Contest. **Fifth thru twelfth grade students are asked to name their own theme and write a supporting essay relating to being drug, alcohol and violence free.** The winner will be awarded a \$50 cash prize and two runners up a cash prize of \$25 each at the Capital Rotunda ceremony in May, 2010.

PLAN NOW TO PARTICIPATE! “Red Ribbon Week” or other drug and violence prevention emphases are a great time to hold your own school contest! **Please fill out the enclosed “Intent to Participate” form and fax it to our office by October 16, 2009.** The FreeWay office must receive all entries by 3:00pm Monday, November 16, 2009. Final judging will begin on November 16, 2009 and winners will be announced on November 20, 2009.

\*\* Please ensure 6<sup>th</sup> graders receive contest packet\*\*

Complete the initial round of judging at your school and send *one winner per grade* to FreeWay Foundation for the final judging. Winners will be announced on November 20, 2009 and invited to attend the Capital Rotunda ceremony in May 2010. Winners and runners up will receive their awards and prize money at the ceremony. FreeWay Foundation will also make press releases available for each winner’s hometown newspaper.

We look forward to working with you and your students during this contest. Your student’s participation will reinforce the importance of being drug and violence free. Instructions and contest deadlines are included in this packet. *Feel free to duplicate the contest packet and pass it along to other interested schools in your district.* Please call or email me if you have any questions ([kthompson@freewayfoundation.org](mailto:kthompson@freewayfoundation.org)) concerning the contest. Thank you in advance for your hard work and support of our organization.

Sincerely,



Keisha Thompson  
FreeWay Project Administrator



## FreeWay Theme & Essay Contest Intent to Participate

Please enter the school as a participant in the Theme & Essay contest being sponsored by FreeWay Project. Please fill out this form completely.

**Year: 2009-2010**

School: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Grades Participating: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you registered to receive FreeWay Project services for 2009-2010?  Yes  No  
(St. Louis Metropolitan Area only)

If no, would you like register to receive our **free** presenter services?  Yes  No

Please fax "intent to participate" form to the FreeWay Project 314.739.0848 by October 16, 2009. If there is any problem meeting this deadline, please contact Keisha Thompson at 314.739.1121 or at [kthompson@freewayfoundation.org](mailto:kthompson@freewayfoundation.org).

## Theme & Essay Contest

### Rules:

1. Students in grades 5-12 may enter – subject to individual school guidelines
2. Entries must be totally the product of the individual student
3. One winner per school per grade may be submitted to FreeWay Project
4. All entries submitted for judging **MUST** have the entry form ATTACHED to the back
5. Scheduled deadlines must be met

### Instructions:

1. Each student should name a contest theme\* and write a supporting essay. ***Contest theme and supporting essay should relate directly to being drug, alcohol and violence free.***  
*\*Winning theme will be used for the spring Poster & Coloring contest.*

#### Past Themes

"Life is a gift; Live free"

"I get high naturally"

2. The essay must include the contest theme
3. The contest theme must be 10 words or less and the essay should not exceed 150 words
4. Entries will be judged on creativity, originality and relationship to the theme

### Contest Timeline:

*October 16, 2009* --“Intent to participate” forms due

*November 16, 2009*--Entries due to FreeWay Project office by 3:00pm

*November 16-20, 2009* --Final judging at FreeWay Project

*November 20, 2009* --Winners announced

*May 2010 (details tba)* -- Capitol Rotunda Awards Ceremony



## **FreeWay Theme & Essay Contest** **Judging and Awarding of Prizes**

Three (3) prizes will be awarded:

1 winner	= \$50
2 runners up	= \$25 each

### **LOCAL SCHOOL JUDGING**

School officials judge the theme and supporting essays at the local school level. **Students must follow contest rules and instructions.** Entries should be judged on creativity, originality and relationship to the theme. After winners have been selected at the local level, the school contact must send one winning entry from each grade level (or one winning entry per school) to the FreeWay office by 3:00pm, November 16, 2009. *Please do not send more than one entry per grade.* At the school's discretion, participants may be awarded a "Certificate of Participation" from the local school (enclosed). The Winning theme and essays may be featured in the FreeWay Project publications, promotions, and/ or correspondence throughout the year (a copy of the publication will be provided for the school.)

### **FINAL JUDGING**

FreeWay Project staff and designees will complete final judging November 16-20, 2009. Entries will be judged on creativity, originality and relationship to the theme. Winning entries will be announced on November 20, 2009.

### **CEREMONY**

Awards will be presented at the Capitol Rotunda Ceremony at the Missouri Capitol Building in Jefferson City in May 2010 (details tba). A ceremony response form will be mailed after the final judging to get a count of students planning to attend. If students are unable to attend, prizes will be mailed on the first working day after the ceremony. State Senators and Representatives are invited to attend the ceremony. (Please write the appropriate STATE (not U.S.) Senator and Representative on the entry form.) Students, family members and school representatives are also encouraged to attend.

If you have any questions regarding the FreeWay Theme & Essay Contest please contact Keisha Thompson at 314.739.1121 or at [kthompson@freewayfoundation.org](mailto:kthompson@freewayfoundation.org).



## FreeWay Theme & Essay Contest Entry Form

(Please print legibly and attach to back of the entry)

2009-2010

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

School Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ School FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

School Contact Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

This is to verify that the student has, to the best of my knowledge, followed the rules of the contest and is therefore qualified to enter his/her entry.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(School Official)

My child has permission to enter his/her theme and essay in the state contest sponsored by the FreeWay Project and I release the right to said organization to publish and reproduce my child's name and entry.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian)

Name of child's current State Representative (MO, not U.S.) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child's current State Senator (MO, not U.S.) \_\_\_\_\_

Entries must be received by November 16, 2009 and become property of the FreeWay Foundation, with right of publication without further compensation, but with credit to creator.

**This form must be attached to the back of the entry in order to qualify for the state contest.**

If you have any questions regarding the FreeWay Theme & Essay Contest please contact Keisha Thompson at 314.739.1121 or at [kthompson@freewayfoundation.org](mailto:kthompson@freewayfoundation.org).

2009-2010



## **FreeWay Theme & Essay Contest Evaluation Form**

Please take a few minutes to evaluate the results of our theme & essay contest. Your input will help us improve this contest in the future. Please return this evaluation form with your entries by November 16, 2009.

Please rate your responses to the following questions on the scale 1 to 5.

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

1. This was a learning experience for my students.

5	4	3	2	1
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2. Instructions for the contest were easy to understand.

5	4	3	2	1
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3. The packet contained all the information I needed to conduct the contest.

5	4	3	2	1
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4. I would recommend this contest to other educators.

5	4	3	2	1
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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**RETURN EVALUATION FORMS TO:**

*Keisha Thompson*  
*FAX: 314.739.0848*