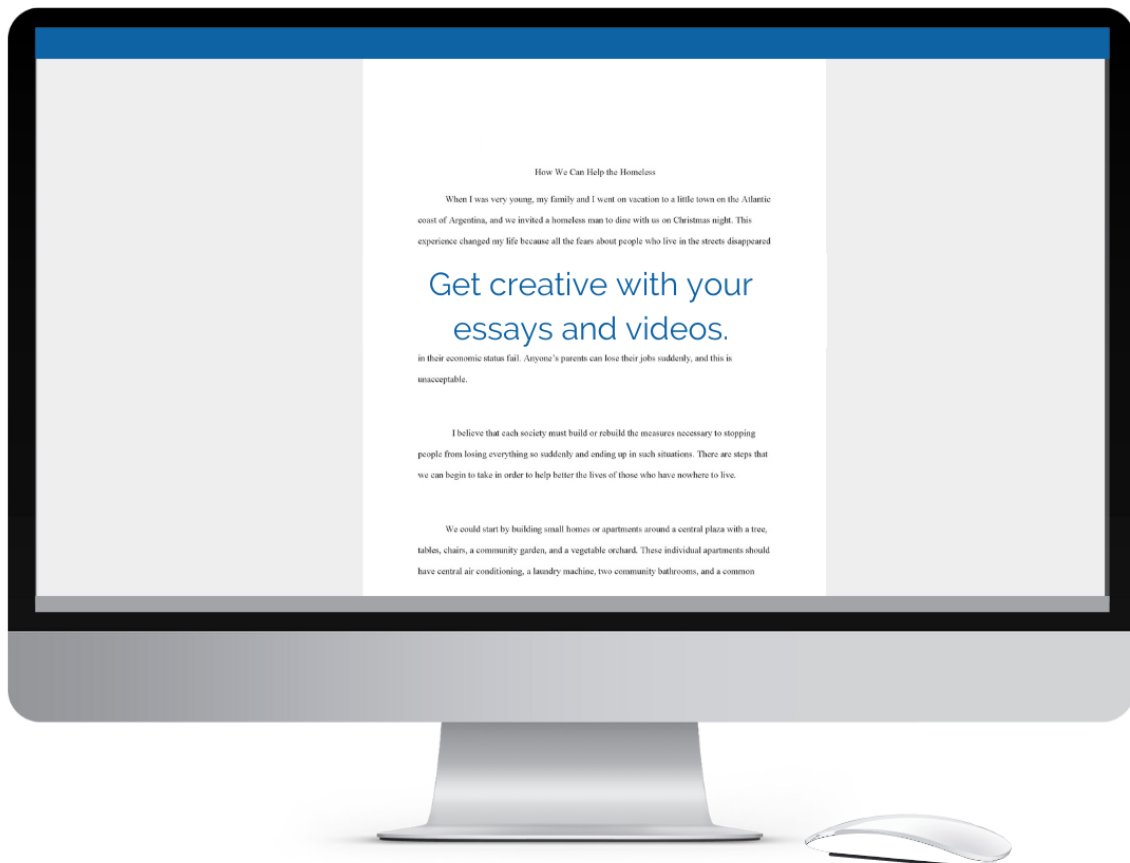




# Miami Dade County Homeless Trust's Homeless Sensitivity Essay Contest

Enter for a chance to win a \$300 gift card!



**DEADLINE: JANUARY 27, 2023**

To Learn More, Scan Me



## **WRITTEN/VIDEO ESSAY CONTEST: OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

The essay contest aims to engage high school students' perceptions of homelessness in Miami-Dade County and consider how they can encourage others to create real change in the lives of people experiencing homelessness.

If you are in need of inspiration, check out the [Homeless Trust](#) and [Project UP-START](#) website for more information. Get creative with your research! This article on [Youth Homelessness](#) is also a good place to start.

**Students who submit a written/video essay will receive (2) community service hours for their school.**

### **ESSAY QUESTIONS**

This year we are focusing on creating more affordable housing opportunities to address homelessness. Our 2022 theme captures what "home" means for someone who may be experiencing homelessness.

Take the time to think through what aspects of home resonate with you, put yourself in the shoes of someone who might be struggling with homelessness, and in your own words, share the meaning of what a home is or what it means to you, or what you wish it could mean for someone else.

We welcome creative storylines that illustrate a powerful message. **Essays must be the original creation of the student.**

### **HIGH SCHOOL VIDEO/ESSAY CONTEST SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS**

On the top left corner of all essays, **MUST** include the essay title, the student's name, sponsoring teacher or Project UP-START Liaison's name, school, grade level, and Student Entry Form.

#### **OPTION 1: Written Only**

Upon submitting, you will send the following:

- An essay between 300-500 words, typed or handwritten (legible writing only).
- Homeless Sensitivity Poster and Essay Contest Entry Form.

#### **OPTION 2: Short Social Media Video**

Upon submission, you will send the following:

- An essay between 300-500 words, typed or handwritten (legible writing only).
- :15-:30 seconds social media video using Instagram or TikTok.

- Provide the artist's name and song title with your submission. (**Reminder: When downloading a video from Instagram, using copyrighted music, the platform will only allow you to download your original audio, not the music track.**)
- Homeless Sensitivity Poster and Essay Contest Entry Form.

**\*\*\*In order for the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust to showcase the winner's video on their social media platforms or website, a parent/guardian(s) MUST sign the form on page 4.\*\*\***

**\*\*\*Essays will be screened to detect plagiarism.\*\*\***

**Please read:**

After video/written essays are submitted, the project will become the property of the Homeless Trust to be used to post submissions on the Homeless Trust's social media platforms. Parent/guardian(s) signature on the entry form gives The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust consent to use submissions on their social media platforms.

**Videos and/or essays MUST be submitted to [contest@homelesstrust.org](mailto:contest@homelesstrust.org) by 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 27, 2023.**

If you have issues submitting your work or have any questions, please contact [sydne@m.network](mailto:sydne@m.network)

**Essay Contest Deadline: January 27, 2023 by 5 p.m.**

**Judging of the Poster and Essay Contests**

The judges will consist of a panel with community representatives, Homeless Trust Board members and Miami-Dade County Public Schools personnel. The judges will make all final decisions.

**\*Winners will be invited to attend the May Homeless Trust Board meeting and have the opportunity to showcase their work. – Time and date for meeting will be posted in January.**

**Prizes for the Poster and Essay Contests**

Prizes will be awarded to the student and Project UP-START Liaison and/or sponsoring teacher. All student winners will receive a \$300 gift card (one per student), and the Project UP-START Liaison or sponsoring teacher will receive a \$200 gift card (one per Project UP-START Liaison).

**\*\*\*If we do not choose a winner for a category, the Homeless Trust can redistribute the prize money to other categories as determined by the judging panel.\*\*\***



# HOMELESS TRUST

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

## Homeless Sensitivity Essay Contest Entry Form

Deadline: **January 27, 2023** by 5 p.m.

Please email forms to: [contest@homelesstrust.org](mailto:contest@homelesstrust.org)

### STUDENT INFORMATION

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

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

Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade level: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSORING TEACHER/ UP-START LIAISON INFORMATION

Teacher/ UP- START Liaison Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/ UP-START Liaison Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

School Location Number: \_\_\_\_\_

School Contact Cell Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

School Principal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Principal's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_