

The Springfield Public Forum and the Springfield City Library with funding from the American International College Honors Program present:

The City Thinks Student Essay Contest Rules and Entry Form

Tell your city what you think! To participate, please answer the following question in 500 words or less and submit to citythinks@yahoo.com by October 10, 2008. Entry form, guidelines and rules are below.

Consider China's rise on the international stage in a wide range of areas: the global economy, politics/foreign affairs, the environment and human rights among others. Referencing one or more of these topics and using specific examples, build an argument and answer the question:

“Does China represent a threat or an opportunity? Why?”

Entry Form: Please complete the information below and submit with signed rules and your essay.

Name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	
Telephone #	
Email address	
Date of Birth	
School Attending	
School Address	
School Phone	
Sponsoring teacher (if applicable)	
If under 18, parent/guardian name	

By signing below, I, _____ (print name here), agree to abide by the rules and regulations of **The City Thinks** Essay Contest.

Name _____ Date _____

If under 18: By signing below, I _____ (print parent/guardian name here) give my son/ daughter/minor child permission to participate in **The City Thinks** essay contest and agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the contest as outlined.

Name _____ Date _____

By initialing here, I agree to these rules _____

Essay Contest Rules

OVERVIEW: The City Thinks Essay Contest (the "Contest") is open to all residents of greater Springfield, MA, who are currently enrolled full-time in a public or state-accredited private or parochial school, college or university in good standing and are in grades 6-college. All entrants who are under the age of Eighteen (18) at the time of entry must have the permission of at least one (1) of their parents and/or legal guardians to enter. By entering the Contest, entrants and/or their parents or legal guardians (if such entrants are minors): (i) agree to accept and be bound by all terms of these Official Rules and Regulations ("Official Rules").

HOW TO ENTER: From Wednesday, September 10, 2008 – Friday, October 10, 2008(the "Entry Period"), Sponsors will conduct an essay contest which considers the topic of China's rise on the global stage. To enter, participants download an electronic copy of the entry form, located at www.springfieldpublicforum.org (the "Website"), during the Entry Period. A signed and printed hard copy of the entry form and permission slip, plus the essay, must be received by the Springfield Public Forum by October 10, 2008 at Springfield Public Forum, P.O. Box 5374, Springfield, MA 01101. Any submissions received after October 10, 2008 will not be eligible for consideration. **In addition, a completed essay must be sent in electronic word format to springfieldpublicforum@yahoo.com by midnight on October 10, 2008.** The essay must have the student's name, phone number, email, address, school and age on it.

Essays must be type-written, double-spaced, no more than 500 words in length. Essays must answer the question:

Consider China's rise on the international stage in a wide range of areas: the global economy, politics/foreign affairs, the environment and human rights among others. Referencing one or more of these topics and using specific examples, build an argument and answer the question: "Does China represent a threat or an opportunity? Why?"

No other materials will be accepted by Sponsors in connection with the Contest. All entries must be submitted in the name of an individual person. All entries (including Essays) become the property of Sponsors, will not be acknowledged or returned and may be used by Sponsors in any manner or media in perpetuity without compensation. Essays must be written in English and Essays on any topic other than the chosen Topic shall be disqualified. Any plagiarism and/or failure to properly identify non-original material by an entrant will result in such entrant's disqualification. Essays containing quotations or copyrighted materials which are not properly identified will also be disqualified. All words in the Essay except the title, bibliography and/or footnotes shall be counted towards the 500 word limit. Essays that Sponsors and/or the judges deem, in their sole discretion, to be inappropriate or obscene will be void. Limit one (1) entry per person. Multiple entries from any person and/or duplicate entries will be deemed void.

Sponsors are not responsible for misdirected, inaccurate, incomplete, lost, late, delayed, undelivered, damaged or illegible entries, and all such entries will be void.

JUDGING: A group of 21 semi-finalists will be selected by Public Forum staff. These entries will be judged by a panel of local educators. The essays will be evaluated upon the following criteria: originality, knowledge and relevance of topic, creativity, eloquence of writing style, paragraph and essay structure. The decisions of the judges will be final and binding on all participants. One winner will be chosen from each of the following grade categories: grades 6-8, 9-10, 11-12, and college with 2 runners-up in each category.

By initialing here, I agree to these rules _____

WINNER NOTIFICATION: Winners will be notified by Sponsors by October 25th, 2008 with the official announcement made at the Kick-off reception on October 30th, 2008. Notification will be either by the telephone number or e-mail address provided on his/her Official Entry Form. Winners must also meet all eligibility requirements, including the execution and return of all necessary releases.

RECOGNITION: Copies of the winning essays will be available at the kick-off event and other City Thinks programming. In addition, each winner and 1 guest will be invited to a reception and dinner with China Road author Rob Gifford, to be held at the Springfield Monarch Sheraton Hotel on November 13, 2008. Copies of the winning essays will be distributed to all guests, and winners will be recognized at the dinner, lecture and in the press.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS: By entering this Contest, entrants (and/or their parent or legal guardian): (i) agree to be bound by the decisions of Sponsors and judges which are final and binding in all matters; (ii) grant Sponsors and their designees the right, unless prohibited by law, to use their names, cities and states of residence, voices, pictures and likenesses, without compensation, notification or permission, for the purpose of advertising and publicity in any and all media, now or after known, throughout the world in perpetuity. Sponsors will own the entries submitted (including the Essay and all rights embodied therein), and their designees may exploit, edit, modify, and distribute the entries and all elements of such entries, including, without limitation, the names and likenesses of any persons or locations embodied therein, in any and all media, now or hereafter known throughout the world in perpetuity without limitation at no additional notification or permission of entrants, their parents or legal guardians or any third party.

SPONSORS: This contest is sponsored by the Springfield Public Forum and the Springfield City Library.

The City Thinks is a collaboration between the Springfield Public Forum and the Springfield City Library with funding from the AIC Honors Program and media sponsorship from the Valley Advocate, as well as support from local cultural organizations, schools and colleges. The goal of the program is to provide area residents the opportunity to consider a pressing issue of our times through education, discussion and other activities.

For more information email citythinks@yahoo.com.

**Springfield Public Forum
P.O. Box 5374
Springfield, MA 01101
413.732.2020
www.springfieldpublicforum.org**

**Springfield City Library
220 State St.
Springfield, MA 01103
413.263.6828
www.springfieldlibrary.org**