



2019 IFI Fatherhood Essay Contest

Dear Educators,

In February 1997, Illinois Fatherhood Initiative Founder David Hirsch organized a briefing attended by 120 community leaders. Those leaders referred to a U.S. Department of Education study indicating that when both parents are involved in the education of their children, educational outcomes soar and many of the issues that plague society decline.

GREATER FATHER INVOLVEMENT = GREATER STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

IFI began the Illinois Fatherhood Essay Contest in 1997. To date and with the engagement of education leaders like yourself, we've collected more than 400,000 essays from more than 500 schools. We've engaged more than 10,000 volunteer evaluators and recognized thousands of essayists each May and hundreds of "dads" each June. Every child is a winner, and all contest essayists receive a Certificate of Participation.

Included in this Essay Packet is all the information for the **2019 IFI Fatherhood Essay Contest**.

The submission **deadline** for the essays is **March 1, 2019**.

The essay contest is an important way to both encourage good student writing skills and to engage dads in the education of their children. To get a broader understanding of the IFI, please visit www.4fathers.org. The IFI is committed to helping improve educational outcomes through greater father involvement.

THANK YOU for being part of the solution.
If you have questions, please email us at ifi@4fathers.org.

Scot Marcotte
IFI President





2019 IFI Fatherhood Essay Contest

FACT SHEET – 2019 IFI FATHERHOOD ESSAY CONTEST

Each student is asked to write a 250-word (or less) essay in English on the theme “What My Father Means to Me,” describing their relationship with their father, stepfather, grandfather or father figure. We have added a category of “What a Father Means to Me” in situations where a student would prefer to write about the concept of an ideal father. Students should share their true feelings. Provide examples of joys, frustrations or special memories they have as well as commenting about what they would most like to see in their relationship. Father figures can include: uncles, brothers, coaches, or other persons of influence to the student.

Please be sure the correct category is circled on the essay form and the name of who they are writing about is included.

CRITERIA FOR ESSAY JUDGING

Submissions will be evaluated according to grade level. Judging criteria will consist of:

1. How the essay describes the relationship or an ideal state.
2. Detail and stories that demonstrate the character of the father/father-figure or an ideal father.
3. Honesty, clarity, simplicity of writing.
4. Overall grade level appropriate writing skill.

JUDGING PROCESS

1. Essays will be divided into 13 categories (K-12) and five divisions (father, grandfather, stepfather, father-figure, plus the newly added “What a Father Means to Me”).
2. Volunteers will use the above judging criteria, reading every essay. Top essays from the first round will be sent to a final essay reading session.
3. At the final essay reading, volunteers will then select 10 essays per grade. Up to 130 essay semi-finalists and their “dads” will be invited to attend the IFI Faces of Fatherhood Celebration™ in May 2019.
4. The “dads” of the essay semi-finalists will receive questionnaires to fill out via the school contact.
5. The top 10 essay writers will be invited to the 2019 IFI Fatherhood Dinner Celebration in June.

RULES:

1. One entry per person. All essays must be original, written in English, and created by the student. Teachers may translate the essays into English. Entries may be typed.
2. All entries become the property of Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI). IFI will not be able to return them.
3. Entry into the contest transfers copyright of the essay to IFI and grants IFI permission to reproduce without compensation all or any portion of the essay and response on an unlimited, world-wide basis in its publications.
4. When appropriate and with parent/guardian permission, IFI will cite the name of the author(s) if significant portions of a positive essay/response are used. IFI will also change or conceal names to maintain confidentiality where necessary.
5. Contest is open to Illinois students (K-12).
6. By entering, participants agree to the use of name, photograph, or likeness for advertising and any promotions of the IFI without compensation.



2019 IFI Fatherhood Essay Contest

SCHOOL SUBMISSION FORM

CONTACT PERSON: Please mail this form with all essays from your school. In addition to the school awards, we have two separate drawings for an electronic tablet; one for contact persons and one for classroom teachers.

School's Full Name: _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ IL ZIP _____

School Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

Contact's Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Principal's Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Total Number of Essays Submitted: _____ 2018-2019 School Total Enrollment: _____

Number of Teachers Participating: _____ Percentage of Enrollment Participating: _____%

We are submitting the following number of essays per grade:

Kindergarten: _____	5 th Grade: _____	9 th Grade: _____
1 st Grade: _____	6 th Grade: _____	10 th Grade: _____
2 nd Grade: _____	7 th Grade: _____	11 th Grade: _____
3 rd Grade: _____	8 th Grade: _____	12 th Grade: _____
4 th Grade: _____		

The information provided above is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that for our school to be eligible for the essay contest awards, all the essays from our school must be submitted together with this school submission sheet. I will serve as the contact for my school and be responsible for distribution of student awards and recognitions.

It is very important that the "Teacher" submission forms and the "School" submission form are completed and uploaded or sent with all the essays from your school in one envelope or package.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print your name: _____

The packet with all your school's essays must be postmarked by March 1, 2019.

Mail Essays to:

IFI 2019 Fatherhood Essay Contest

1 North Dearborn, #1000, Chicago, IL 60602

Questions - email ifi@4fathers.org



2019 IFI Fatherhood Essay Contest

TEACHER & CLASSROOM FORM

To have your class participate in the essay contest and ensure your students receive their participation awards, please fill out this form and follow the checklist below.

In addition to the school awards, we have two separate drawings; one for contact persons and one for classroom teachers. Your name will be placed into a drawing for an electronic tablet with this completed form.

Teacher Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ School Phone: _____

Grade: _____ Number of participating student essays: _____

TEACHER CHECKLIST

1. Complete this form and the school information on Student Entry Forms A & B.
2. Make copies of the Entry Forms to distribute to your students. Students can attach additional pages.
3. Collect essays and confirm that the student's information is entered on the top of each page and that they circled an essay category. Please translate the essay to English if applicable.
4. Staple the forms together with Student Entry Form A on top.
5. Ensure that each student has a copy of their essay to take to their father/father-figure for their feedback. An important goal of the contest is for these essays to be shared and responses to be gathered.
6. Set a date for students to return reviewed essays ahead of the school's March 1 submission deadline.
7. When all essays are collected from your class, place this completed sheet on the top of them.
8. Give the completed essays to your school's Contact Person, who will submit all essays from your school. Since we have many schools participating, it is important we receive only one mailing from each school.
9. IFI will send all awards to your school's Contact Person who will distribute them to each teacher.
10. Please share certificates with each student who participated from your classroom. *Please keep a list of participating students so every student who wrote an essay will get a certificate.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!



2019 IFI Fatherhood Essay Contest

STUDENT ENTRY FORM A

- All students submitting an essay through their school will receive a Certificate of Participation.
- 130 essay semi-finalists (10 per grade) and their honoree will be invited to attend the May Faces of Fatherhood Celebration™ as our guests.
- Also, 10 essay finalists will receive additional recognition and be invited with their honoree to attend the 2019 IFI Fatherhood Dinner Celebration in June 2019.

Student's Full Name _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

School Name _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Father/Father-Figure Name: _____

Email _____ Phone _____

I AM WRITING AN ESSAY ABOUT (CIRCLE ONE):

MY FATHER

MY GRANDFATHER

MY STEPFATHER

MY FATHER-FIGURE

WHAT A FATHER MEANS TO ME

***Note:** Father/Father-Figure information does not need to be supplied for any essays in the "What a Father Means to Me" category nor in situations where school policy prohibits. The essay needs to be submitted in English. Students may type their essays.

Staple completed Form B and any additional pages to this form.



2019 IFI Fatherhood Essay Contest

STUDENT ENTRY FORM B (attach additional pages if needed)

Student's Name _____ Grade _____ School _____

Father/Grandfather/Step Father/Father-Figure Response: "My Reaction to this Essay":

I would like to become more involved with my child's education: in the classroom after school at home.
By providing a response and your email, IFI will provide information about various activities and resources.

Father/Father-Figure Name: _____

Email _____ Phone: _____

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK!!