

Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON AT KULTURA
(DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE)
Manila

October 21, 1975

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM
No. 175, s. 1975

ESSAY WRITING CONTESTS IN COMMEMORATION
OF CONSTITUTION DAY

To the: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Chiefs of Staff Services
and Heads of Units

1. The Philippine Constitution Association (PHILCONSA), the Kabuhay ng Filipino Movement (KMF), and the Department of Education and Culture (DEC) are sponsoring nationwide essay contests, in English and Filipino, in connection with the observance of Constitution Day on January 17, 1975. The contests are open to all Filipino secondary and collegiate students in all schools, colleges, and universities. There will be separate divisions for collegiate and secondary students.
2. The theme of the celebration is: The Role of the Youth in the Constitution. The essay may deal with any topic covered by, or relevant to, the theme. It may be the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of the youth under the Constitution; it may be the significance of the Constitution to the youth of the land; or it may be the future of the youth in relation to the Constitution.
3. The contests will be conducted in three stages as follows: provincial/city, regional, and national. The provincial/city contest committee, which will also act as the board of judges for the division level, will consist of the superintendent of schools, the KMF provincial/city coordinator, and the PHILCONSA provincial/city chairman. The regional committee which will also act as the board of judges on the regional level, will be composed of the DEC regional director and the KMF and PHILCONSA chairmen for the region. The national committee which will also act as the national board of judges will consist of the Undersecretary of Education and Culture, the President of the PHILCONSA, and the National Chairman of the KMF. The decisions of the boards of judges in all levels will be final.
4. All entries in the provincial/city contests shall be submitted to the Essay Writing Contest Committee, c/o the Superintendent of Schools not later than November 26, 1975. The provincial/city

committees will select the best essay in each division - English, secondary division, Filipino, secondary division; English, collegiate division, and Filipino, collegiate division - and submit the four essays as entries of the province/city to the regional competition. All entries in the regional level shall be submitted to the Essay Writing Contest Committee, c/o the ROC Regional Director, not later than December 15, 1975. The Regional Committee will select the best essay in each division as the regional entries in the national contests. All entries in the national level shall be submitted to the Essay Writing Contest Committee, c/o the Undersecretary of Education and Culture, Arroyos, Manila, not later than January 7, 1976. All entries will become the property of the ROC, PHILCONSAS, and the VEC.

5. Entries will be evaluated on the basis of:

- a. Validity of Research 50%
- b. Style (artistry and development) 50%

For the collegiate level, the essay must be 5,000 words, more or less; for the secondary level, 3,000 words, more or less. The composition must be original, unpublished and should not have been awarded prizes in any other contests. The author of each entry should indicate only his/her pen name below the title of his/her essay. The contestant's real name and pen name, including age and sex as well as the name and address of his/her school should be placed in a sealed envelope to be attached to the essay.

6. Cash prizes will be awarded by the PHILCONSAS to the winners in the national level and by the Regional VEC at the regional level. At the provincial/city level, the respective committees may solicit and arrange prizes for the winners. All participants in the national level will be awarded plaques of appreciation and recognition. The cash prizes are as follows:

- a. Regional competitions - For every region, cash prizes of at least ₱100 and plaques of recognition will be awarded to the following:
 - (1) The best essay in English, secondary level;
 - (2) The best essay in Filipino, secondary level;
 - (3) The best essay in English, collegiate level; and
 - (4) The best essay in Filipino, collegiate level.
- b. National finals - ₱1,000 and Presidential Plaques of Recognition each for the best essay in the following:
 - (1) English, secondary level
 - (2) Filipino, secondary level
 - (3) English, collegiate level
 - (4) Filipino, collegiate level

P500 and Plaques of Recognition for the second best essay in the following:

- (1) English, secondary level
- (2) Pilipino, secondary level
- (3) English, collegiate level
- (4) Pilipino, collegiate level

P300 and Plaques of Recognition for the third best essay in the following:

- (1) English, secondary level
- (2) Pilipino, secondary level
- (3) English, collegiate level
- (4) Pilipino, collegiate level

7. These competitions should be given the widest publicity in the field and as many students as possible should be encouraged to participate in it.

(SGD.) PASCISO AMBAGACIN
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