



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS  
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue  
Pasig City, Philippines



*Sama-Sama*  
sa DECS

*Tanggapan ng Kalihim*  
*Office of the Secretary*

September 14, 2000

DECS MEMORANDUM  
No. 421, s. 2000

**PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION FOR THE NEW CENTURY  
AND THE MILLENNIUM ESSAY WRITING CONTEST**

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division/City Superintendents

1. The Presidential Commission for the New Century and the Millennium (PCNCM) in cooperation with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) shall launch an Essay Writing Contest with the theme "Advancing Agricultural Modernization through Science and Technology" on November 23, 2000 at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
2. The contest aims to:
  - a. develop the skills and capabilities of the students through creative writing;
  - b. raise the awareness of the students of the value of science and technology in the improvement of the agricultural sector;
  - c. promote respect for cultural heritage and sustainable growth as the key to national development; and
  - d. promote student's appreciation of the role of agriculture in the country's pursuit of economic growth and global competitiveness.
3. The participants, timetable, mechanics and management of the contest at various levels are indicated in the enclosure.
4. Travel and board and lodging of the regional contestants and coaches and other incidental expenses relative to this contest shall be charged to the Presidential Commission for the New Century and the New Millennium, subject to the necessary government accounting and auditing rules.
5. The school principals joining the delegation shall charge their board and lodging and travel expenses to school/division funds subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
6. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

*Andrew Gonzalez*  
ANDREW GONZALEZ, FSC  
Secretary

Encl.:  
As stated

Reference:  
None

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

~~CONTESTS~~  
~~STUDENTS~~

**PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION FOR THE NEW CENTURY  
AND THE MILLENNIUM ESSAY WRITING CONTEST**

**1. Participants**

1.2 The contest is open to all first year to fourth year high school students of public and private schools as well as laboratory schools of colleges and universities nationwide.

**1.2. Official Delegation**

1.2.1 The members of the **divisional delegation** to the regional contest (preliminary round) are the following:

- 1.2.1.1 the divisional contestants
- 1.2.1.2 the official coach of the divisional contestants
- 1.2.1.3 Principals

1.2.2 The members of the **regional delegation** to the regional cluster competition ( semifinal round ) are the following:

- 1.2.2.1 the regional contestants
- 1.2.2.2 the official coach of the regional contestants
- 1.2.2.3 Principals

1.2.3 The members of the **regional cluster delegation** to the national contest ( grand finals) are the following:

- 1.2.3.1 the regional cluster winners
- 1.2.3.2 the official coach of the regional cluster winners
- 1.2.3.3 Principals

**2. Management**

2.1 At the national level, the activity shall be managed by an Executive Committee composed of officials from PCNCM and DECS. This committee shall be assisted by a Technical Working Group composed of selected BSE staff and selected PCNCM staff who shall oversee program implementation at all levels.

2.2 The regional level contests shall be the responsibility of the regions concerned while the national level contest shall be the responsibility of BSE.

3. **Timetable**

The Essay Writing Contest shall be conducted according to the following timetable:

- 3.1 **Deadline of submission of all entries for the preliminary screening to the divisional offices** .....October 15, 2000
- 3.2 **Regional level**.....between October 16 - November 10,2000
- 3.3 **Semi-final round (Regional Clusters)**
  - 3.3.1 **Manila Science High School**.....November 15, 2000  
( Regions: 1-5,NCR and CAR)
  - 3.3.2 **Ecotech Center, Lahug Cebu**.....November 16, 2000  
( Regions: 6-8)
  - 3.3.3 **Regional Office, Waling Waling Conference Hall, Davao City**.....November 17, 2000  
( Regions: 9-12 and CARAGA)
- 3.4 **Grand Finals** .....November 23, 2000  
Bulwagan ng Karunungan,Rizal Bldg.  
DECS Central Office, U.L. Complex  
Meralco Ave., Pasig City

4. **Contest Guidelines**

4.1 **Selection and Elimination**

4.1.1 **Regional Level Contest (Preliminary Round)**

4.1.1.1 The DECS Regional Director will form a group of judges (not more than five members) who will choose the **best essay** in each category , Filipino and English for preliminary round.

4.1.1.2 The winners in the regional level contest ( preliminary round) will compete in the **semifinal round (regional clusters)**.

4.1.2 **Regional Cluster Contests**

4.1.2.1 The DECS Central Office will provide the board of judges who will choose the **best essay** in each category for every regional cluster.

4.1.2.2 The winners in the **semifinal round (Regional Clusters)** will compete in the **grand finals (National Level Contest)**.

4.1.3 National Level Contest

4.1.3.1 The judges will choose the most outstanding essay in each category for the grand finals.

4.2 Contest Questions

4.2.1 During the semi-final round, the contestants will be asked to write an essay (on the spot) about a related topic on the theme.

4.2.2 The six ( 6 ) grand finalists will be asked to write an essay (on the spot) about a specific topic on this year's theme.

5. Criteria

The essay will be judged on the basis of:

5.1	Rhetorical Force .....	30%
	The clarity with which the central idea or point of view is slated and maintained; the coherence of the discussion and the quality of the writer's reasoning; the logical sequence of the writer's ideas.	
5.2	Relevance to the Theme and Appropriateness.....	30%
	The relevance, depth and specificity of supporting information and applicability of recommended actions.	
5.3	Originality, Substance of the Content .....	20%
	The extent to which the ideas and concepts presented are complete, intensive and first hand produced.	
5.4	Usage.....	10%
	The extent to which the writer addresses the topic; uses vocabulary/ language, creativity of expression, care and precision in word choice; and expresses his / her purpose.	
5.5	Mechanics.....	10%
	The extent to which the writing is free of error in syntax, paragraph and sentence structure.	
	<b>Total.....</b>	<b>100%</b>

6. Board of Judges

6.1 Regional Level Contest (Preliminary Round)

The DECS Regional Director will form a group of judges ( not more than five members) who will choose the best essays in each category, Filipino and English, for every regional level.

6.2 **Regional Cluster Contest ( Semi-final Round)**  
The **DECS Central Office** will provide the board of judges who will choose the **best essays** in each category for every regional cluster.

6.3 **National Level Contest ( Grand Finals)**  
The judges will choose the **most outstanding essays** in each category for the grand finals.

7. **Contest Prizes**

7.1 **National Level ( Grand Finals)**

**Cash Prize**

Champions.....P 50,000. x 2 categories = P 100,000.

Other contestants ( non winners ) will receive an amount of P 10,000.00 each and a plaque of recognition.

7.2 Preliminary and Semifinal rounds will receive prizes in cash and in kind in recognition of their outstanding talents in writing an essay.