

“SECOND CHANCES” ESSAY CONTEST FOR LGBTQ YOUTH
Sponsored by The Trevor Project and Lambda Literary Foundation

ESSAY CONTEST SCHEDULE

First day of submissions	Tues., Sept. 8
Mentor request deadline	Wed., Oct. 7
Last day of submissions	EXTENDED TO MON., MARCH 1, 2010
Review period	Tues., March 2 – Fri., April 2, 2010
Top 5 announced	Mon., April 5, 2010
Top 5 posted on Web site	By Fri., April 9, 2010
Anthology selections announced	TBD (pending publisher’s approval & timeline)
Anthology published	TBD (pending publisher’s approval & timeline)

CONTEST OVERVIEW

Harness your creativity while sharing your personal story in the first-ever “Second Chances” essay contest for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, sponsored by The Trevor Project and Lambda Literary Foundation!

All young people should be proud of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Today’s brave generation of youth are coming out earlier than ever and even becoming active advocates for LGBTQ issues in their communities. However, sometimes reactions from family, friends, classmates, teachers and others can be unsupportive or hurtful, and contribute to young people feeling helpless, hopeless and alone.

The Trevor Project is the leading national organization focused on crisis and suicide prevention efforts among LGBTQ youth, and Lambda Literary Foundation is dedicated to raising the status of openly LGBT people throughout society by rewarding and promoting excellence among LGBT writers who use their work to explore LGBT lives. Together, we’ve teamed up to encourage LGBTQ youth throughout the country to step up and share their stories of overcoming feelings of depression, thoughts of suicide or suicide attempts, and other unique experiences involving overcoming obstacles.

Five winning entries will be chosen by a review panel of professional writers involved with or recruited by The Trevor Project and Lambda Literary Foundation. These five winning essays will be published on The Trevor Project’s Web site on or about Friday, April 9, 2010. **Select essay entries, including but not limited to the top five winners, may be chosen by the review panel for inclusion in an anthology of essays that will be published, sold and distributed in the future.**

PARTICIPATION

- The “Second Chances” essay contest is open to people ages 13 through 24 in the United States.
- Entrants can submit one (1) essay each.
- Entries should be between 750 and 1,500 words total.

CONTENT CRITERIA

- Essays should be written in response to one (1) of the following prompts:
 - *Describe a time in your life when you experienced feelings of depression due to the impact a person’s or people’s reactions, language or behaviors toward your sexual orientation or gender identity had on you. Discuss how you overcame these feelings and became empowered to proudly live as a LGBTQ person.*
 - *Describe how you experienced thoughts of suicide or how you attempted suicide due to the impact a person’s or people’s reactions, language or behaviors toward your sexual orientation or gender identity had on you. Discuss how you overcame these feelings and became empowered to proudly live as a LGBTQ person.*
- All content must be 100% original and written by the entrant.
- All content must be non-fiction in nature and reflect valid, real-life experiences.
- Essays including content that is defamatory to or invades the privacy of any group of people or individual and/or violates any law will be disqualified.
- Essays that are off-topic or are not written in response to one of the aforementioned prompts will be disqualified.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Prepare your submission

- Essay submissions must be in a MS Word (.doc format) document, double-spaced and typed in black, 12-point “Times New Roman” font. Other document formats will not be accepted.
- Your full name, age, city and state of residence and e-mail address must be clearly displayed in **boldface font** in the upper, left-hand corner of the first page of your essay.
- All essays should be titled. Include the title of your essay in **boldface font** before the body of your essay begins.

2. Submit your essay

- Submit your essay via e-mail to: EssayContest@TheTrevorProject.org.
- **Do not** submit your essay in the body of the e-mail message. Include it as an attachment (.doc format).
- Write: “Youth Essay Contest Submission – Your First & Last Name” in the subject line of the e-mail.
- **Include your first & last name, city & state of residence, e-mail address, current phone number and total word count of your essay in the body of the e-mail message.**
- ***All entries must be received by 11:00p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST) on Monday, March 1, 2010.***

JUDGING AND WINNING

After the deadline, the review panel will review all submissions and select five winners. Winners will be contacted by phone or e-mail on or about Monday, April 5, 2010. These five winning essays will be published on The Trevor Project’s Web site (www.TheTrevorProject.org) on or about Friday, April 9, 2010. Winning essays posted on the Web site will be accompanied by a brief bio and photograph of the author. ***Select essay entries, including but not limited to the five winners, may be chosen by the review panel for inclusion in an anthology of essays that will be published, sold and distributed in the future.***

Authors of the five winning essays will each receive a gift card to the American Booksellers Association (ABA), which can be redeemed for books and merchandise at independent bookstores throughout the country. Winning essays may also be considered for publication in a national, LGBTQ-focused media outlet determined by The Trevor Project and Lambda Literary Foundation.

TERMS OF OWNERSHIP

Entrants agree to grant The Trevor Project and Lambda Literary Foundation a perpetual, royalty-free, assignable, but non-exclusive license to use, utilize, replicate, alter, adapt, modify, publish, broadcast, translate, distribute, present, sublicense and exercise all copyright and other intellectual property rights with respect to their contributions worldwide and/or to include their contributions in other works in any media now known or later created forever. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each entrant shall reserve motion picture, television, radio and customary allied rights and live stage rights to such entrant’s essay, provided that The Trevor Project and Lambda Literary Foundation shall have the right to promote, publicize and advertise any publications of the essays by means of television and/or radio. Each entrant agrees and grants The Trevor Project and Lambda Literary Foundation permission to make available and display/perform and otherwise distribute entrant’s name and essay in all media in perpetuity without compensation.

By submitting an essay you agree and represent to The Trevor Project and Lambda Literary Foundation that you are the creator and the sole copyright owner of the content in the essay; and that you have read, understand and agree to these terms of ownership.