

Essay Contest Rules

1. **Purpose:** The City of Corpus Christi Fair Housing Unit (CCFHU) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development work together to promote Fair Housing Awareness.
2. **Theme:** “What does discrimination mean to you?” (Based on Race, including Asian American and Pacific Islander, black, indigenous, and other underserved communities of color.)
3. **Who:** Qualifying high school students enrolled in a Corpus Christi High School.
4. **What:** Students will explain what fair housing means to them. In addition, what/how would he/she pursue to affirmatively promote and protect Fair Housing discrimination because of race, including Asian American and Pacific Islander, black, indigenous, and other underserved communities of color.
5. **Length:** The essay should be at least 1,000 words but should not exceed 1,500 words (word count does not apply to the list of sources). The word count must be included on the document you submit.
6. **When:** The deadline to submit the Essay is **Wednesday May 31, 2023, 11:59 p.m. Central Time**. The Essay must be submitted to the following City email addresses below in the following formats: Microsoft Word and/or PDF document. Students will include their name, mailing address, school currently attending, telephone number and e-mail. First, second, and third place winners will be recognized at a City Council meeting (to be announced) and will be posted on the City’s Website, Facebook, and Instagram. The CCFHU Compliance Officers will judge the students’ Essay work. The winners will be contacted by the Homeless & Housing Services Manager via phone call and/or email notice correspondence.
 - **Please submit your completed Essay to Norav@cctexas.com, Stephg3@cctexas.com, and Juanr@cctexas.com**
7. **End:** Only the first 25 Essay submissions will be accepted.
8. **Prizes:**
 - **1st Place:** (1) winner will receive a TI-84 Plus CE Graphing Calculator, 10,000 mAh Power Bank, USB 8GB flash drive, 40 oz. insulated tumbler with handle, straw, and lid, 1” buckle lanyard, clear backpack, and a Laser engraved stylus pen.
 - **2nd Place:** (1) winner will receive a 10,000 mAh Power Bank, USB 8GB flash drive, 40 oz. insulated tumbler with handle, straw, and lid, 1” buckle lanyard, clear backpack, and a Laser engraved stylus pen.
 - **3rd Place:** (1) winner will receive a 10,000 mAh Power Bank, USB 8GB flash drive, 1” buckle lanyard, clear backpack, and a Laser engraved stylus pen.
 - **All other participants will receive a USB 8GB flash drive, 1” buckle lanyard, clear backpack, and a Laser engraved stylus pen.**



Background Information on Fair Housing

- ❖ **The City of Corpus Christi Ordinance (Ch. 24, Article III) and the Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting or buying a home, getting a mortgage, seeking housing assistance, or engaging in other housing-related activities.**
- ❖ **The City of Corpus Christi Ordinance and the Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of:**
 - **Race** *(the idea that the human species is divided into distinct groups on the basis of inherited physical and behavioral differences.)*
 - **Color** *(Color discrimination involves treating someone unfavorably because of skin color complexion.)*
 - **National Origin** *(the nation where a person was born, or where that person's ancestors came from)*
 - **Religion** *(human beings' relation to that which they regard as holy, sacred, absolute, spiritual, divine, or worthy of especial reverence.)*
 - **Sex** *(male or female - including gender identity & sexual orientation)*
 - **Familial Status** *(any family in which one or more individuals (who have not attained the age of 18 years) live with a parent, a legal custodian, or a designee of the parent or legal custodian, with the written permission of the parent or legal custodian.)*
 - **Disability** *(a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of their major life activities.)*
- ❖ **Example of Mortgage Lending discrimination:**
 - Impose different terms or conditions on a loan, such as different interest rates, points, or fees.
- ❖ **Example of Disability discrimination:**
 - Refusal to make a reasonable accommodation or modification that may be necessary to allow persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to use and enjoy their housing.

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