

PRA'S 1st NATIONAL ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

1. BACKGROUND

The Philippine Retirement Authority is launching its 1st Essay Writing Competition in conjunction with its nationwide awareness campaign to promote local towns and cities suitable as second homes and retirement destinations for foreign retirees with the following objectives:

- 1) To gather information on the different towns and cities of the Philippines that can be uploaded in the PRA website which will be made available to foreign nationals and investors;
- 2) To promote awareness among youth about the various assets present in their towns and cities;
- 3) To develop the research thinking, and communication skills of the youth including the familiarity with correct grammar, spelling, and writing style; and
- 4) To publicize the winning entries, both locally and internationally, thru the different government and private websites.

The theme of the essay is “*Dear Foreign Retiree, Why you should retire in my town*”,

The 1st PRA Essay Writing Contest is divided into two categories: High School Category, and College Category

II. GUIDELINES

A. Eligibility

The essay writing competition is open to all public and private students in high school and college levels.

The joining student must be currently enrolled for SY2011-2012. The student must submit, along with his/her entry, a scanned copy of his/her Student ID and an endorsement letter from the school principal/headmaster or their duly appointed representative.

A student may submit only one (1) entry.

B. Forms

All entries must be in essay format and in English, with a **minimum of 1,500 words and a maximum of 2,000 words**.

All entries must have a separate **summary of no more than 250 words**. The summary will be used by the jury to make a pre-selection

All entries must be typewritten, double-spaced on regular sized (8 ½ x 11 inches) bond paper using MS Word. Font size shall be 12, Times New Roman, with 1 inch margins top and bottom, and 1 inch margins left and right, and with page number indicated on the lower right case.

All submissions must be original. No previously published material will be accepted. Any form of plagiarism will result in automatic disqualification.

Quotes and references must be clearly marked throughout the essay and properly cited.

Each entry submitted must be the work of one person only and not a collective work.

C. Submission

C.1 Via Traditional Mail or Courier Service

All entries must be placed in a sealed letter-envelope addressed and sent via traditional mail, courier, or personally delivered accompanied by:

- i. A soft copy in PDF file format (in a diskette or CD)
- ii. An endorsement letter from the school/university
- iii. A photocopy of a valid school ID addressed to:

Essay Writing Competition Committee
c/o Mervin A. Magbuhat
Philippine Retirement Authority
29F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City 1220

C.2 Via Email

All entries must be sent as an attachment emailed to praessaywritingcontest2011@gmail.com in PDF file format only accompanied by:

- i. A scanned copy of the endorsement letter from the school/university
- ii. A scanned copy of a valid school ID

Entries may be accepted starting **July 01, 2011**, and all entries must be received on or before **September 15, 2011**. PRA reserves the right to extend the deadline. Such extension will be publicly announced.

All submissions will be deemed as the Authority's property upon receipt of entry. Selected entries will be made available online via the PRA official website after the announcement.

D. Judgement Criteria

Entries shall be judged by the panel of jurors to determine the best eight (8) entries, based on the following criteria:

Content, Originality, and Relevance	- 40 %
Grammar and Spelling	- 20 %
Logic and Organization, Coherence & Unity	- 30 %
Style and Presentation	- 10 %

E. Prizes

For each of the High School and College categories, the following prizes will be received:

Grand Prize Winner will receive PHP 50,000.00 + Plaque of Recognition;
Second Prize Winner will receive PHP 30,000.00 + Plaque of Recognition;
Third Prize Winner will receive PHP 20,000.00. + Plaque of Recognition.

Five (5) Honorable Mention Awardees will receive PHP 5,000.00 each.

The schools and universities for the High School and College categories will receive the following:

Grand Winner	=	PHP 15,000.00 + Plaque of Recognition
Second Prize Winner	=	PHP 10,000.00 + Plaque of Recognition
Third Prize Winner	=	PHP 5,000.00 + Plaque of Recognition

The top three winners, the five honorable mention awardees, and school representatives of the top three winners from each category shall be required to attend the awarding ceremonies which will be held on **October 07, 2011**, and will be recognized and awarded accordingly:

All monetary prizes are subject to 20% withholding tax.