

National Student Creative Story Contest

Spanish Entry Packet

Dear Spanish Teacher,

Thank you for your interest in entering your students for our contest! This is a great opportunity for your students to show off their writing proficiency in Spanish and let their creative side shine.

As I grew up, I had two things I really enjoyed, writing and French (and then later Spanish). It was a word thing. I loved words. I loved to play with them and put them together in creative ways to make stories that entertained me. It wasn't until much later in life, though, that I started combining those two loves into writing stories in other languages.

Now I'm excited to encourage budding writers into using this new language so they can gain recognition for rising to the challenge.

This packet has been designed to make it easy for you to enter your students in this contest. Hopefully everything you need for this contest will be included in this packet, but if I've forgotten something or you have any questions, just let me know. 😊

I hope your students will have fun writing the stories, and I'm sure looking forward to reading them!

To all the contestants and teachers, ¡buena suerte!

Deb Read
Chalkboard Productions
chalkbrd@hoosierlink.net

Quick Checklist

Here's a quick check list for you to make sure you're ready to go with the contest. This is merely for your benefit. You do not need to return this. ☺

- I checked with my school's administration and/or the students' parents to make sure it's okay for us to enter this contest.
- I collected \$1 per story from each student (or arranged for the payment to be made or a school PO to be faxed/sent to Chalkboard Productions). If I sent the PO I made sure it was postmarked by **February 28, 2013**.
- Before 11:59 pm EASTERN time on February**, I paid the entry fee for the number of stories my students will submit.
- After February 1**, I checked for the 3 structures (or went to <http://www.chalkboard-productions.com/categories/contest/february2013structures.html>) and passed those onto the students so they can begin working on their stories.
- Between February 1 and February 28**, I used/reviewed those structures in class so my students know how to use them.
- On or Before February 28**, I collected all student story entries and put them into one document.
- Before February 28**, I checked the story entry document with the submissions guideline checklist.
- Before 11:59 pm eastern time on February 28**, I sent the submission e-mail to chalkbrd@hoosierlink.net according to the submission guideline checklist.
- While I waited to find out the winners, I printed out the participant certificates for those who submitted a story.
- I patiently told my students who entered that I haven't heard yet who the winners are.
- Around April 15, I received an e-mail with the names of the winners in it.
- I jumped for joy for each student of mine whose story is in the top 10.
- I informed any student winners in my class of their prize, and jumped for joy again with them when they found out they won.
- I received an envelope from Chalkboard Productions with the prizes my students have won and distributed those prizes (checks or certificates) to the appropriate students.
- I distributed parental release forms to the students who won so their parents can determine how they want their child's name to appear with their story on the website.
- I e-mailed Deb Read chalkbrd@hoosierlink.net the e-mail address of my local newspaper (and my principal/superintendent) so she could send a press release to let the world know about my winning students (and their wonderful teacher!).

Submissions Guidelines Checklist

Here's a quick checklist for formatting your story submission. This is merely for your benefit. You do not need to return this.

- My name is the same name the students were registered under.
- On or before February 28, I collected all student stories.
- I put all student stories into one document.
- I saved the document with the title of my name and then the name of my school (example: Deb-Read-ChalkboardHS).
- I saved the document in one of these formats: .doc, .docx, .pdf or .rtf.
- I put each story on a separate page of the document (insert, page break in MS Word) with the student's name on the page.
- I put the whole document in a normal font that is 12 points in size.
- I attached the document to an e-mail.
- I addressed the e-mail to chalkbrd@hoosierlink.net .
- In the body of the e-mail I put my name, my school's name, city, and state.
- I put FEBRUARY CONTEST in the subject line.

If you have any questions, please e-mail them to Deb at chalkbrd@hoosierlink.net. ☺

Rules for the Student Creative Story Contest

1. Entries for the February Story contest must be made by 11:59 pm eastern time on February 28, 2013. No entries for the February contest will be allowed after 11:59 pm eastern on February 28, 2013. The contest begins at noon eastern time on February 1, 2013 and ends at the end of the school day on February 28, 2013. Stories may only be submitted between noon February 2 and 11:59 pm eastern time on February 28.
2. Teachers may enter any number of student stories from any level, with a minimum of 5. Entry fee is \$1 per story. Each student may enter as many stories as they want, but each story requires a \$1 entry fee and fees must be paid in multiples of 5. Students must be 18 years old or younger.
3. There is only one category of entries for this contest at this time. This contest is for students who fit into the “regular” or “outside experience” categories of the National Spanish Exam. See this link if you are unsure of your student’s category: <http://www.nationalspanishexam.org/index.php/exam-administration/exam-categories> (We hope to have a future contest for the bilingual students.) All levels may compete in this contest. Entries will be judged on creativity and flow of story. Minor grammatical or spelling errors will not be a factor as long as they don’t affect the understanding of the story. However, if there are two entries we like equally well, the one that has the least amount of grammatical or spelling errors will be chosen. It’s in the best interest of the students to use language they know how to use well instead of adding in new structures they have not yet mastered.
4. The three structures for the February contest are: quiere ver, va a, and así que. These MUST be used as the focus of the story.
5. Stories must use a form of each of the given structures, and each structure must be an important part of the story. By “form” we mean the appropriate forms that go with different subjects or as needed in the context of the story. (Example: If the structure is “to go” then any of these forms might be used: he goes, he is going, he will go, he went, he had to go, he wanted to go, he would go, he can go, he could go, I go, I am going, I will go, I went, we went, they went, they are going, etc. Any subject may be used.) If the story doesn’t use all of given structures or if they are not an important part of the story, the story will be disqualified.
6. The story must have a title, a beginning (an introduction of the main character and the situation), a middle (where the character tries to solve his problem or fix his situation) and an end (a final resolution to the character’s situation). If the story is lacking any of these parts, it will be disqualified.

7. The story must be completely in Spanish. No English words or words from any other language are allowed. If there are any English words or words from other languages, the story will be disqualified.
8. The story cannot exceed 300 words. Most word processing programs have a word count feature. We will use the word count feature in MS Word 2010 as the official count. If the story is over, it will be disqualified. The title does not count in that word count. Only the actual story. Most stories are between 100 and 200 words.
9. The story must be an original idea of the student's. It cannot be a retelling of a TV show, a book, or any other work. Actual people's names should not be used (unless they are famous...example: Joey Brown from your class cannot be used, but Eli Manning can be). The story can be a retelling of a story from the student's class created together, but only one retelling of a particular class story can be submitted from any teacher. In other words, please don't send us 5 retellings of the same story. Students from the same teacher will need to use different details to make different stories.
10. Teachers and parents are not allowed to give corrections to students. We want to see the students' work. Other students may do peer reviews to help the student check their work. Students cannot use online translators. Stories that were translated via online translators will be disqualified.
11. Stories can only be received between noon eastern time on February 2 and 11:59 pm eastern time on February 28. Any early stories or late stories will be disqualified.
12. Submission formatting: **VERY IMPORTANT!** Entries that aren't submitted in this format will be disqualified. The entries must be submitted as follows.
 - a. Only teachers can submit stories. (Homeschooling parents may be considered teachers for this contest, but must submit the minimum number of entries.)
 - b. Schools can combine stories from different classes and teachers to make the minimum of 5. Schools can designate one teacher to submit all entries. Schools may also allow individual teachers to each submit their own students' entries.
 - c. Combine all entries from one teacher's classes into one document.
 - d. Title the document with the teacher's name and school. No spaces. (Example: Deb-Read-ChalkboardHS.doc or DebReadChalkboardHS.doc)
 - e. The document **MUST** be in one of the following formats: .doc, .docx, .pdf or .rtf. When you save the document, use the SAVE AS function and check to make sure it's in one of these formats. The .doc is from older versions of MS Word 97-2003, .docx is from MS Word 2010. No Open Office formats will be accepted (but remember, if you use Open Office,

you can use the SAVE AS and then change the extension to one of the accepted ones).

- f. Each student story should appear on a separate page in the document. Please insert a page break between stories. Stories should be single-spaced. Any normal font is acceptable but should be 12 point. (Arial, Times New Roman, or Cambria are preferred, but not required.) Please include the student's name on the page with their story.
 - g. The one document containing all the student stories from the submitting teacher must be ATTACHED to an e-mail and sent to the e-mail address given in the registration packet. The subject line should say: FEBRUARY CONTEST. This way we can easily retrieve entries if they happen to be stopped by our spam filter.
 - h. In the body of the e-mail, teachers need to include their names, their school's name, city and state. We will also be happy to send a press release to your local paper if your student wins. Please include the e-mail of your local newspaper for us to do that for you. Otherwise we can just send the press release to you and you can forward it to the media yourself.
13. If a story is disqualified (for any reason stated above), the entrance fee will not be refunded. Please make sure stories fit the criteria before they are entered.
 14. Teachers are responsible for securing all permissions for participating in this contest. If your school requires an administrator's authorization or parental consent, the teacher must obtain this. Chalkboard Productions assumes that all entries have been cleared by your district to participate in this contest.
 15. The top 10 winning entries must agree to be posted on the Chalkboard Productions' website for the public to read. Winners' names will be listed as their first name and last initial and then their teacher's name, school, city and state. No last names will be posted to protect students. The teacher may decide how they want their name listed.



This is to certify that

participated in the February 2013

***National Spanish Student
Creative Story Contest.***



Teacher: _____

Debra A. Read

Debra A. Read, Chalkboard Productions