

In order to preserve, protect and promote rural literacy, perspectives, and voices, Red Flag Press presents:

Statewide Rural Essay Contest

OKLAHOMA: THE GOOD, THE BAD, & THE BETTER

THEME:

Oklahoma is a state founded on the values, concerns and needs of rural people. Despite the technological and urban landscape of today's society, rural Oklahomans have valuable wisdom to offer in the public discussion of social improvement. This wisdom, about what is good and what is bad in Oklahoma, often goes unheard in today's metropolitan political climate. Any solutions to problems currently faced in Oklahoma found in agrarian culture and rural traditions can get lost as a result.

REQUIREMENTS:

Writers of all competitive divisions listed below are asked to write an essay, in accordance to the rules of the divisions, that addresses what is good about Oklahoma, what is bad about Oklahoma, and what can be done to make Oklahoma better.

CRITERIA FOR AWARD:

Essays will be judged within their competitive divisions for the solid exhibition of critical thinking, the ethical use of rhetorical persuasion, the artful craft of tone and structure, and the clear understanding of the power of the word to influence positive change in the state.

COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Word Requirement</u>	<u>Award Amount</u>
7 th and 8 th grade.....	500word minimum.....	\$100
9 th and 10 th grade.....	750word minimum.....	\$100
11 th and 12 th grade.....	1,000word minimum.....	\$100
College Frshmn, & Soph.....	1,500word minimum.....	\$200
College Juniors & Seniors.....	1,750word minimum.....	\$200
General Public.....	750word minimum.....	\$200

STIPULATIONS:

Top winners in each category will receive a cash award, and publication both on the Red Flag Press website and in print. Authors will retain copyright to their work; Red Flag Press will retain copyright for the collection of essays.

All entries must be mailed to the following address, with a postmark no later than **MAY 30, 2008**:

Red Flag Press
Essay Contest #1
P.O. Box 20822
Oklahoma City, OK 73156-0822

All entries must be accompanied by a cover sheet that lists the author's name, mailing address, school affiliation (if the author is a student), age, e-mail address (if available) and contact number. Please go to www.redflagpress.com for more information.