

## **Essay Categories**

**Individual** – Student with Down syndrome

**Essay Writing Prompt:** How is my life just like yours?

**Individual** - Student without Down syndrome

**Essay Writing Prompt:** How my classmate, friend, relative with Down syndrome has positively enriched my life.

**Collaborative** – 2 Friends – one with Down syndrome & one without Down syndrome

**Essay Writing Prompt:** How is our friendship better because of Down syndrome?

## **Rules**

1. One winner will be selected from each category (Individual-with Down syndrome; Individual-without Down syndrome; Collaborative-one friend with Down syndrome & one friend without Down syndrome) from middle school (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) & high school (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) in Colorado.
2. All essays must be written in English.
3. Good essays typically contain 400-500 words, essays are limited to 750 words, excluding the title. In the Individual Category, students with Down syndrome may submit their essay through Microsoft Power Point (not more than 15 slides), if desired.
4. Teachers may submit the **five best essays in each category** written by their students. Essays received in excess of this limit will be disqualified, and three randomly chosen essays will be scored.
5. A teacher or administrator must submit the essays and authenticate that the submission is the original work of the student. Parents may submit the essays of students who are home-schooled. Only one entry may be submitted for each student.
6. Essays must be submitted electronically through the Linda Crnic Institute web site at [www.CrnicInstitute.org](http://www.CrnicInstitute.org) from January 15, 2012 through February 14, 2012. Essays must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm MST on February 14, 2012. Once submitted, essays cannot be changed or revised. Winners will be announced by 3/21. Essays mailed or faxed to the Institute will NOT be accepted.
7. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Essays found to contain the work of others will be disqualified, and the student's teacher will be notified.

8. The text of student essays must be original prose. Students must use quotation marks when quoting other people.
9. Parents of students who are home-schooled are not eligible for the \$1500 teacher prize.

**Please note** that text from essays may be used for other purposes within the Crnic Institute; for example, it may be used on our website to share how all our lives are similar and how people with Down syndrome positively enrich everyone’s lives. Student text may be published on the Linda Crnic Institute Website or in other Crnic Institute-supported publications.

Submission will include: Teachers Name, Student Name, Teacher Email, School phone number, Grade, School Name, City.

For collaborating teams, prizes may be split between participating parties, i.e. general education teacher and special education teacher.

### Rubric

	Points
Overall effective use of writing prompt with content	0-6
Voice-Writer’s voice is authentic, confident, convincing, and imbedded within the text	0-6
Writing quality (composition, grammar, syntax, spelling)	0-4
Use of people first language (definition: The practice of using care and respect in language when talking about people with Down syndrome. For example, one would say "child with a Down syndrome" versus "Down syndrome child." This puts the person first and emphasizes the person instead of the disability.)	0-4
Organization- Structure includes introduction, body, conclusion	0-5
Total points possible:	25