



2022 EDUCATIONAL FORUM

Student Spotlight Competition

Information Packet



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Student Spotlight Competition

Educational Forum 2022

Introduction

BestPrep, a Minnesota based nonprofit, and sponsor Thomson Reuters are excited to offer a competition for high school students in conjunction with the BestPrep Educational Forum, called the Student Spotlight Competition. The Forum is a biennial event launched in 2008 to explore topics of current importance for business and education. In the past, this competition has been limited to essay submissions, and we are excited to announce we broadened the responses to also include other art media!

Who is eligible?

Students grades 9-12 in a Minnesota public, private, charter, or home school during the 2021-2022 school year. Students must have an educator or program leader designated to review their submission.

What is the prompt?

Emmanuel Acho's "[Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man](#)" creates a safe place to have uncomfortable conversations. These conversations open the opportunity to share thoughts and feelings around: racial profiling, wealth gaps, privilege due to skin color, language barriers, cultural differences and more. Conversations can take place using various creative mediums; written word, art, sculpture, music, and theater to name a few.

Using one of these mediums, share your thoughts and feelings on an uncomfortable conversation you would like to have. An ideal submission will answer at least one of these questions: how does this conversation affect your daily life? How does this conversation affect your community? In what ways do you see change being made around the conversation you chose?

How will this be judged?

All submissions will be judged by a panel of business and education volunteers on the following criteria: comprehension/understanding of the subject matter, creativity, organization, clarity, and originality.

What are the prizes?

BestPrep and sponsor Thomson Reuters will invite the top 20 high school student winners and their respective teachers to attend the Educational Forum on February 28, 2022 at the US Bank Stadium. Included will be a private evening reception with keynote speaker Emmanuel Acho before the event begins.

Emmanuel Acho is a former NFL linebacker and current Fox Sports Analyst and Co-Host for FS1's "Speak For Yourself" and Host/Producer/Author of a web series on driving an open, difficult, but ultimately productive conversation on race in America. Mr. Acho will bring his popular podcast format to the BestPrep Educational Forum. Two 25-minute conversations will be held, one with key Twin Cities D&I executives and one with area high school students.

No more than three winners will be selected from the same school.

The students will also receive the following prizes:

- 1st place: The Kristie Award and \$2500 scholarship provided by the family of Kristie Greve*
- 2nd place: 64GB iPad Air
- 3rd place: Nintendo Switch with gift card for games
- 4th place: Series 6 Apple Watch
- 5th place: AirPods Pro

**The 1st place winner will receive The Kristie Award, named in honor of long-time BestPrep volunteer and board member Kristie Greve. Kristie was a gifted writer and communicator. She had a successful 40-year career in communications. The award is a tribute to her passion for helping Minnesota students prepare for a successful future.*

The remaining 15 winners will each receive a \$50 Target gift card. Educators representing the top five students will each receive a \$100 VISA gift card.

Submission Specifics:

*Educators or program leaders must submit and upload pieces on behalf of the student and act as a key contact with BestPrep. An exception will be made if a student is mailing in their piece from home due to COVID-19 restrictions, the educator or program leader **must** have viewed the submission ahead of time.*

Submitting an essay:

- Essay must be submitted via a Word document, double-spaced, with left and right margins at 1-inch each. Font should be 12-point Times New Roman or similar.
- Essay must follow MLA or APA standards for references, quotes, and works cited page.
- Essay must be between 600-750 words. The word count includes all words in the essay text. It does NOT include the cover page (student/educator information), the bibliography, endnotes, or references.

Submitting a video or electronic piece (music, spoken word, dance):

- Submission can be no longer than three (3) minutes and must be uploaded to YouTube via a secure link.
- Must include a title and a description in a Word doc using 12 pt Times New Roman font in less than 100 words.
- Finalists will have their submission displayed at the event

Submitting a sculpture, painting, drawing, or freestanding object:

- Submission can be no larger than 48" x 60" x 36" with an accompanying jpeg photograph of the piece of art.
- Must include a title and a description in a Word doc using 12 pt Times New Roman font in less than 100 words.
- Submission must be delivered by mail or personally to the BestPrep office at 7100 Northland Circle N, Ste 306, Brooklyn Park MN 55428 between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm before December 3, 2021. Finalists will have their submission displayed at the event.

Deadline and submission:

- Entries must be submitted by **Friday December 3, 2021** to Kristina Curtis: kcurtis@bestprep.org.
 - Electronic submissions: please send to Kristina Curtis - kcurtis@bestprep.org.
 - Mail or in-person submissions: email Kristina to let her know if you sent your submission via US Post or dropped the submission off at the office so she can confirm it was received.
- Educators or program leaders, we request that you register your class/organization ahead of time so that we can reserve the appropriate number of judges. Register your class [HERE](#).
- Educators or program leaders must submit pieces on behalf of the student and act as a key contact with BestPrep.
 - Educator or program leader must review submissions, making sure it addresses the topic and is free of grammatical errors.
- Educators or program leaders will be notified of the results in January 2022.

This entire packet is available for download in Word format at:
<https://bestprep.box.com/s/pl19rbodx9jomkv8utwnyo2x2d0t3f>

Cover Page

*Submissions are anonymous to the judges, but we do need to be sure your information is connected to your piece. Please fill out the information below and include it with your submission. This should be the only page with your personal information. **Do NOT provide any personal information (such as your name in the header) in the remainder of your submission.***

Competition Topic: Emmanuel Acho's "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man" creates a safe place to have uncomfortable conversations. These conversations open the opportunity to share thoughts and feelings around: racial profiling, wealth gaps, privilege due to skin color, language barriers, cultural differences and more. Conversations can take place using various creative mediums; written word, art, sculpture, music, and theater to name a few.

Using one of these mediums, share your thoughts and feelings on an uncomfortable conversation you would like to have. An ideal submission will answer at least one of these questions: how does this conversation affect your daily life? How does this conversation affect your community? In what ways do you see change being made around the conversation you chose?

Student Information

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____

Home/Cell Phone (_____) _____ E-mail Address _____

Grade in School 9 10 11 12

Class or Program Submitting Through _____

(Ex. English, Art, Social Studies, AVID, College Possible, TRIO, etc.)

How did you hear about the competition? _____

School Information

Name of School _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Educator Information

Educator Name and Title _____

Educator Email _____

Certification Information

(By typing your name in or signing the below statement, you are agreeing to the following statement.)

I pledge that this submission is my own work. I have had an educator review it, ensuring it meets the requirements of BestPrep's Educational Forum Competition. I understand that my submission will not be

returned and will become the property of BestPrep to use at its discretion. If my submission is chosen as a winner, my name, school, city, etc. will be used in future press and promotion.

Signature of Student _____ Date _____