



# Write-Off Contest

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## Official Instructions

Contest Category: **EDITORIAL WRITING**

1. You will listen to the E.W. Tucker keynote speaker presentation. After the 15 minute question-and-answer-period, you are to write an editorial of no more than 350 words, including a headline, in ink on your own lined or plain 8.5 X 11 paper.
2. You are encouraged to take notes during the speech and interview. Contestants are allowed to use their notes during the writing portion of the contest. You may also consult a dictionary, thesaurus, AP Stylebook, and/or an electronic spellchecker.
3. Immediately following the presentation, a short break will be given before students will begin writing their stories.
4. You may not talk with the speaker or anyone else during the writing portion of the contest, except to clarify these rules.
5. You will be notified at 30 minutes and again at 15 minutes before the deadline to allow time for error checks. The final version may contain neat erasure marks.
6. The judges will look for leads that come quickly to an assertion; focus on a single, manageable proposition editorial format for lead, body, conclusion; opposing arguments refuted; facts to support assertion in the lead; arguments fully developed; strong conclusions; accuracy; completeness; elimination of extraneous material; elimination of libelous statements.
7. **DO NOT** write any identifying information on the written portion of the contest except your entry code number. Place your entry code number in the upper RIGHT hand corner of **each** page.

Contest Code Entry Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your high school: \_\_\_\_\_

**(DO NOT** put this identifying information on any page of the written portion of the contest. **If any identifying mark is mentioned or implied, the entry will be disqualified.** Only Your contest entry code is to appear on the written portion of the contest.