

## VIRGINIA PTA CITIZENSHIP ESSAY PROJECT

Virginia PTA is proud to sponsor a Citizenship Essay Project. The 2010 theme is *Strong Citizens – Strong Communities*. This Essay Project allows students to express their views and opinions on “Character or Citizenship”. Virginia PTA is committed to promoting a sense of citizenship and responsibility in the lives of our children—tomorrow’s leaders.

### Who Can Enter?

All Virginia students in grades 6 – 12 presently enrolled in schools with PTA/PTSA units in good standing. A PTA in good standing is one who has paid state and national dues by June 30, and whose bylaws are current, having been revised within the past five (5) years.

### Criteria

- Students in grades 9 – 12 must write a **minimum of 750** words, typed and double-spaced using Times Roman, 12 Font, using 1” margins.
- Students in grades 6 – 8 must write a **minimum of 500** words, typed and double-spaced and using Times Roman, 12 Font, using 1” margins.
- In both age categories, adherence to the theme, originality, clarity, thought, and skill in standard written English will be judged.
- The theme, “*Strong Citizens – Strong Communities*”, must be used as the essay title and cannot be changed or altered in any way.

### Awards

Awards will be given in both age groups (middle school grades 6-8 and high school grades 9-12).

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place -- \$1,000 Savings Bond
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place -- \$ 500 Savings Bond
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place -- \$ 250 Savings Bond

All entries must be forwarded to your district director for district judging. **Don’t have a district director—just forward your entries to the Virginia PTA State Office for processing.** District directors will submit winning entries to the Virginia PTA State Office for state level judging.

**Deadline for submitting to your district director: February 1, 2010 (Postmarked)**

**Deadline for district directors to submit to the state office: March 1, 2010 (Postmarked)**