

# Dharma Inc. International

In collaboration with SWAHA International

## Tenth Annual Creative Writing Contest 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Theme, "My Life..."



### COVER PAGE

Please Attach This Page to the Front of Your Essay

Entrant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School, Mandir, Institution, etc. (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Qualifying Age Category:

<u>Age (select ONE)</u>	<u>Topic</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ten and Under</b> (min. 200, max. 300 words)	<b>"My Life...What would I choose if I could be anything in this world, and why?"</b> <i>Write about what you would be if you have the choice to be absolutely anything you desire. Also share why you would make that choice.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Eleven to Fourteen</b> (min. 450, max. 550 words)	<b>"My life...How community involvement has helped to shape the person I am today and wish to be tomorrow."</b> <i>Tell us about your experiences with any group of people. Relate how you interacted with them and how it has influenced who you are and what you can become.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fifteen to Eighteen</b> (min. 800, max. 900 words)	<b>"My life... How my parents influence the choices I make?"</b> <i>Write about the role and power your parents have in your life choices.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Over Eighteen</b> (min. 950, max. 1,100 wrds)	<b>"My life...A pivotal point or event that shaped my life."</b> <i>Relate one moment, phase or experience that changed your life or allowed you to experience significant change.</i>

Number of Pages in your Essay: \_\_\_\_\_ EXACT Number of Words in your Essay: \_\_\_\_\_



## GENERAL RULES

- Entrants must write on the official topic.
- Entry should be composed in standard English.
- Entrants may use a dialect, Hindi or any cultural words, phrases or expressions only as enhancements.
- Please ensure your Cover Page is COMPLETELY filled out.
- Each entry must contain at least the minimum required word count and must not exceed the maximum. *Verbiage exceeding the maximum word count will not be judged.*
- Begin page numbering on the first page of your entry. Numbering must be done on the bottom right of each page.
- Please bind/staple/collate your entry: it is in your best interest to do so.
- Please ensure your name appears only on the cover page (No names on your entry).

## CONTEST REGULATIONS

Entries should comply with the following regulations before submission:

- No literary form other than the one specified for your category will qualify for judging.
- Entries should reflect the entrant's own research and/or writing (no plagiarism).
- **Entries are considered “point of view” which means there is no “correct” or “incorrect” answer. Do not be afraid to express yourself, to agree, disagree, or take a side in your entries. Freely and fearlessly express yourself 😊**
- Entrants may write in, or above their age category - but not below.
- Entries must be typed or hand-written and **lines should be double-spaced.**
- ***Categories Ten and Under and Eleven to Fourteen:*** Parental assistance must not be to the extent that it constitutes an unfair advantage to the entrant. ALL Entrants must sufficiently demonstrate that they have composed their entries in order to qualify for placement.

### ALL ENTRANTS should ensure:

- You are competing in only one (1) category.
- **You have attached a completed cover page with your submission.**
- Your entry pages are numbered and do not contain your name.
- You submit your entry by **email, upload or hard copy.**
- If you are submitting by email: [info@Dharmainc.net](mailto:info@Dharmainc.net) or [swahainternational@gmail.com](mailto:swahainternational@gmail.com)
- Your entry can be UPLOADED via [Dharmainc.net](http://Dharmainc.net) or [Swahainternational.org](http://Swahainternational.org) websites.

- If submitting hard copies, please ensure:  
You submit **THREE (3) hard copies** of your entry to: *(only if mailing)*  
Dharma Inc. International      or      Swaha International  
3858 Shoreview Drive,                      19 Chotoo Street, Aranguez,  
Kissimmee, FL 34744                      Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies

**IF HAND DELIVERING:**

Please hand deliver **THREE (3) hard copies** to  
**EITHER** a member of the CWC Team at Dharma Inc. or Swaha International  
**OR** your School or Mandir Representative

- Your entry must be received or postmarked **on or before Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

## JUDGING

- Judging will be by a panel of three.
- **To guarantee fairness, no identifiable information about the entrant will be available to the Judges.**
- Entries will be scored according to the provided rubric. **IT IS IN YOUR INTEREST to follow the rubric when composing your entry.**
- The entrant with the highest cumulative score will be declared the winner.
- Second and third places will be awarded for second and third highest cumulative scores respectively.

## ~~~ GENERAL WRITING GUIDE ~~~

### Grammar:

How well the entry conforms to rules and standards of English grammar, punctuation and spelling. Appropriate language style (story, poetry or entry) for your entry type.

### Presentation:

The overall presentation of the entry, writing style, double spacing, writing structure, logical flow and the progression of ideas, references, whether conclusions follow sequentially and logically from arguments. **SPECIFICALLY ANSWERING THE QUESTION of the topic.**

### Content:

#### ENTRIES:

- Age appropriate knowledge.
- Evidence of independent ideas, experiences, creativity, analysis and a thesis, if applicable.
- Must contain an opinion and/or point(s) of view.
- Stay in the **FIRST PERSON** point of view (make yourself the narrator).
- Pay particular attention to support your point of view with words and phrases such as (but not limited to): 'because', 'as a result of', 'if' and 'then', 'therefore', 'in light of', 'it is evident', 'I submit that...', 'in conclusion'
- If using references or statistics: Please cite sources (book, journal or webpage) in standard reference formats, i.e. footnotes or endnotes.

## AWARDS SCHEDULE

In the TENTH ANNIVERSARY edition, awards will be offered as follows:

<b>GRANTS</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b><u>ALL Entrants</u></b>
Under 10:	\$75	\$50	\$40	Certificate of participation
11-14 Yrs.:	\$150	\$75	\$50	Certificate of participation
15-18 Yrs.:	\$250	\$100	\$75	Certificate of participation
19 & Older:	\$800	\$250	\$100	Certificate of participation
<b>ANNUALLY</b>	Spiritual Leader's Choice Award			

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- All prizes should be claimed in person on the appointed date and time. If it is not possible to do so and you desire a representative to claim on your behalf this arrangement must be made, beforehand, with Dharma Inc.'s consent.
- Non-USA awardees must email [info@Dharmainc.net](mailto:info@Dharmainc.net) to arrange award receipt.
- Dharma Inc. may publish selected entries on its media portals, with credit to entrants.
- Prizes must be claimed within 120 days of announcement of winners on **11/14/2021**.
- **Judges' decision is final.**
- **GOOD LUCK!** 😊

## RUBRIC

*This document shows the criteria judges will use to mark your entries. Please use it to guide your grammar, content and organization.*

Criteria	Proficient	Satisfactory	Emerging	Beginning	Marks
<b>Mechanics/ Grammar</b>	<p><b><u>12-15 marks</u></b></p> <p><b>Accurate</b> use of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence formation.</p>	<p><b><u>8-11 marks</u></b></p> <p><b>Satisfactory</b> use of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence formation.</p>	<p><b><u>4-7 marks</u></b></p> <p><b>Minor errors</b> in usage of proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and/or sentence formation.</p>	<p><b><u>0-3 marks</u></b></p> <p><b>Various errors</b> in usage of proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and/or sentence formation.</p>	<p><b>Max: 15 marks</b></p>
<b>Content</b>	<p><b><u>48-65 marks</u></b></p> <p>Topic <b>proficiently</b> addressed with point of view clearly expressed throughout the paper.</p> <p><b>Exceptionally well-presented, ideas</b> are detailed, well-developed, supported with specific evidence as well as examples and specific details.</p>	<p><b><u>31-47 marks</u></b></p> <p>Topic <b>satisfactorily</b> addressed with point of view expressed throughout most of the paper.</p> <p><b>Well-presented, ideas</b> are detailed, developed, and supported with evidence and details.</p>	<p><b><u>15-30 marks</u></b></p> <p>Topic addressed with <b>some apparent</b> point of view expressed throughout the paper.</p> <p><b>Ideas are presented but not particularly developed</b> or supported.</p>	<p><b><u>0-14 marks</u></b></p> <p>Topic is <b>minimally addressed</b> with point of view minimally or not clearly expressed.</p> <p><b>Poor sequence in flow of ideas.</b> Minimal and/or superficial content of named topic.</p>	<p><b>Max: 65 marks</b></p>
<b>Organization</b>	<p><b><u>16-20 marks</u></b></p> <p><b>All paragraphs</b> have clear ideas, are supported with examples.</p> <p><b>Well-planned</b> and well-thought-out.</p> <p>Sentences are <b>clear and varied in pattern</b>, from simple to complex.</p>	<p><b><u>11-15 marks</u></b></p> <p><b>Most paragraphs</b> have clear ideas, are supported with examples.</p> <p><b>Good overall</b> organization.</p> <p>Sentences are <b>clear and varied</b>.</p>	<p><b><u>6-10 marks</u></b></p> <p><b>Some paragraphs</b> have clear ideas, support from examples may be missing.</p> <p>Entry is <b>partially</b> organized.</p> <p>Sentences are <b>clear but may lack variation</b>.</p>	<p><b><u>0-5 marks</u></b></p> <p><b>Paragraphs lack</b> clear ideas.</p> <p>Entry is <b>poorly or not</b> organized.</p> <p><b>Minimal use</b> of a variety of words and control of sentence structures.</p>	<p><b>Max: 20 marks</b></p>