

The California Society for Biomedical Research invites
California and Nevada high school students to participate in our

CSBR Annual Essay Contest

“Vaccines: A Science-based Societal Issue”

Vaccines contain small amounts of dead or weakened pathogens that stimulate an immune response in your body and provide future immunity against that pathogen. Due to biomedical research, vaccines are available for many common pathogens. Some diseases, such as polio, have been eradicated or whipped out the U.S. because of vaccines.

In your essay, explain how vaccines work and some of the arguments for or against vaccinating children. Some questions you may want to address in your essay: Are vaccines safe? What are the benefits and risks? Should childhood vaccinations be mandatory to prevent the spread of infectious disease? Do the benefits outweigh the risks? What are the consequences if some children are vaccinated and others are not? Do mandatory vaccinations violate individual and religious rights?

Awards:

1st Prize: \$200 savings bond certificate*, T-shirt

2nd Prize: \$100 savings bond certificate*, T-shirt

Winning students' teachers will each receive a free Infection Game with Teacher's Guide Play Book.

** Note: In order to receive the savings bond, winners must submit their U.S. Social Security number, which will only be used by CSBR to obtain savings bond and then all records will be destroyed.*

Essay Requirements:

1. Contest participants must be a 9th – 12th grade California or Nevada student;
2. Essays must be a minimum of 500 words, but not exceed 600 words, and typed and double-spaced on 8-1/2" x 11" paper;
3. Essays must explain how vaccinations work and address the controversy about mandatory vaccinations for children, the concerns, and potential benefits to human and animal health;
4. Students must address state their opinion about mandatory vaccinations for children;
5. Essays must use proper grammar, have titles and a cover sheet attached (provided by CSBR);
6. Student's name or any other identifying marks must not appear on the essay.

Where to send essays:

California Society for Biomedical Research (CSBR)
P.O. Box 19340
Sacramento, CA 95819-0340

Contest Deadline:

Entries must be postmarked by January 30, 2009. Each submission becomes the property of CSBR. Winning essays will be published in the CSBR quarterly newsletter, posted on the CSBR website, and may appear in future CSBR publications.

More Information/Coversheet:

For links about biomedical research, a copy of the essay guidelines and coversheet, please visit our website at: <http://www.ca-biomed.org/csbr> or call (916) 558-1515.