

The 2017 “Why Give?” Essay Contest

COMPLETE OFFICIAL RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Whether common knowledge or cliché, most people ascribe to the belief that it is better to give than to receive. Giving of financial resources, material possessions, time, knowledge, skill, talent, or any combination thereof, evokes varying thoughts and emotions. The “Why Give?” essay contest will provide writers the opportunity to share the reasons and benefits of being a giver.

The essay contest is open to published and non-published writers and authors who are 18 years of age and older by November 1, 2017. [The online submission form requires contest entrants to certify they are at least 18 years of age, and confirm whether they are a published or non-published writer/author.]

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THE PRIZES:

Prizes of \$250, \$100, and \$50 are awarded for First Place, Second Place, and Third Place, respectively. Additionally, an unspecified number of contest entrants may be recognized as Finalists. The three winners and all finalists will have their essays placed in the 2018 “Why Give?” anthology and receive a complimentary copy of the anthology (via paperback, e-book, or other determined version). The anthology will be published in early-2018. The prizes are funded and paid by Plumb Line Consulting, LLC. Prize taxes, if any, are the sole responsibility of the winner.

TIMELINE AND SUBMISSION:

- The details of the contest will initially be announced on **Wednesday, November 8, 2017**. The contest will be open to entrants, who must register on the contest website at www.TheAuthorsShowcase.com. Following registration, each contestant submits one (1) essay entry to the contest email address of WhyGiveEssayContest@gmail.com. Audio submissions will also be accepted via www.WeTransfer.com to the contest email address of WhyGiveEssayContest@gmail.com. The submission period is **November 8, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. EST through December 3, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. EST**.
- The contest committee judges will select and notify the finalists no later than **Friday, December 29, 2017**.
- Winners will be notified on or about **Monday, January 8, 2018** and will be announced publicly on or around **Monday, January 15, 2018**.

OTHER IMPORTANT RULES:

- Essays must be a minimum of 500 words or a maximum of 1,000.
- Audio submissions must be a minimum of 4 mins and a maximum of 7 minutes.
- Audio submissions must be a maximum of 2 Gigabytes (GB).
- The essay contest entry fee is \$15.00 for non-published authors and \$29.00 for published authors. Entry fee is paid on the contest website via PayPal.
- As part of the contest submission form, all participants must list valid contact information – legal name, phone number, email address, and mailing address. Physical address, web address, and social media contact information are optional.
- Essays by all winners and finalists will be placed in the “Why Give?” anthology, to be published early-2018.
- Audio winners/finalists submissions will be converted to text format for the anthology.
- The contest is subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Void where prohibited.

ESSAY FORMAT AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

Essay must answer the question “Why Give?” and meet the following format and additional requirements:

- Include a cover page containing the writer/author’s legal name, phone number, email address and mailing address
- Written essays must be submitted on a page layout of 8.5” X 11” [Microsoft Word or PDF]
- Times Roman font
- 12-point size
- Double-spaced
- 1” page margins on left hand, right hand, top and bottom of each page.
- Audio submissions must follow the specifications listed under “OTHER IMPORTANT RULES”.
- Completed essay must be submitted via email to WhyGiveEssayContest@gmail.com (audio formats will be submitted to this email via www.WeTransfer.com).

- Hardcopy originals are not accepted
- Contestants should retain their original essay submission
- Essay must not violate any third-party rights, including, but not limited to, copyrights, trademark rights, or rights of privacy and publicity. By submitting an essay the entrant represents that he/she is the author of the submitted essay and owns all rights to the essay.
- You agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless the sponsor from and against any claim or cause of action that arises from or relates to your essay or your participation in any phase of this contest.
- Essay submissions cannot be revised or altered once submitted. Once submitted, all essays become the property of the sponsor and will not be returned.
- All essays will be reviewed to ensure that they are in compliance with these Official Rules. The sponsor shall have the right to disqualify any nominations that it determines, in its sole discretion, are not in compliance with these Official Rules. The sponsor reserves the right, for any reason and in its sole discretion, not to accept or post any essay, or to remove essays after they have been emailed and/or posted online.

SPONSOR:

The contest is sponsored by Plumb Line Consulting, LLC located at 13506 Summerport Village Pkwy, #734, Windermere, FL 34786. www.plumblineconsultinghr.com 321.230.2982. Terms and conditions of the Contest Rules may be revised, when essential, at the discretion of the sponsor.

AGREEMENT TO OFFICIAL RULES:

By submitting an essay or by otherwise participating in the contest, you fully and unconditionally, agree to and accept these Official Rules and the decisions of the Sponsor, which are final and binding. Winning the contest is contingent upon your compliance with these Official Rules and fulfilling all other requirements set forth in these Official Rules.

PUBLICITY:

By submitting an essay and entering the contest, you are giving us permission to use your name and your location in connection with your essay and/or the contest (including advertising and promoting the contest). The winners and their essays may be promoted via media determined by the sponsor including, but not limited to, the sponsor's designated web site www.TheAuthorsShowcase.com, radio, television, email marketing, social media channels [e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn] and/or other social media]. Finalists and their essays may also be selected for some level of promotion and publicity.

Except where prohibited, by participating in the contest (by submitting an essay) you irrevocably grant the sponsor and its agents your consent to use, record, reproduce, publish, display, perform, translate, and distribute, your name, likeness, voice, quotation(s), opinion(s) and biographical information, including without limitation, any photograph or recording for promotional purposes in any media, worldwide, without further payment or consideration; and the names, likenesses, voice and biographical information of any natural person appearing in your essay, including without limitation any photograph or recording, for any promotional purpose in any media, worldwide, and/or for any other commercial or non-commercial corporate purpose, including without limitation use on merchandise or for marketing, without attribution or further payment or compensation to you or your successors or assigns or any other entity.

WINNER REQUIREMENTS:

Except where prohibited, each potential winner may be required to complete and return an affidavit of eligibility and liability/publicity release within seven (7) days of being notified. The certificate will be confirmation that the essay was an original work by the entrant, and that the entrant agrees with how we can use and publicize their essay.

If a Winner fails to sign and return the certificate within the required time period, or if we are unable to deliver the certificate to the potential winner, the prize may be forfeited and may be awarded to another Finalist at Plumb Line Consulting's discretion. The prizes will be paid directly by Plumb Line Consulting, LLC.

RIGHT OF USE:

By submitting an essay or participating as a finalist, you: (a) irrevocably grant the Sponsor, its agents, licensees, and assigns a royalty-free, perpetual, non-exclusive, fully sublicensable right and license to copyright, reproduce, encode, store, copy, transmit, publish, post, broadcast, display, publicly perform, adapt, modify, create derivative works of, exhibit, and otherwise use your Essay as-is or as-edited (with or without using your name) in any media (whether now known or hereafter developed) throughout the world for any purpose, without limitation, and without additional review, compensation, or approval from you or any other party; (b) waive any moral rights that may preclude the Sponsor's use of your Essay or require any further permission for the Sponsor to use the Essay; and (c) agree not to instigate, support, maintain, or authorize any action, claim, or lawsuit against the Sponsor on the grounds that any use of the Essay, or any derivative works, infringes any of your rights as creator of the Entry, including, without limitation, copyrights, trademark rights, and moral rights. In addition, you hereby grant an unlimited license to the Sponsor to copy, display, broadcast, distribute or otherwise use your Essay for any purpose, including, but not limited to, promotion of the Sponsor or Sponsor's activities. You also grant the Sponsor unlimited authority to sublicense such rights to any third party. You agree that the Sponsor shall also have the right to edit, adapt and publish your Essay and may use it in any media in association with the Contest without attribution or compensation to you, or your successors or assigns or any other entity. You agree that the Sponsor will not be liable to you or to any third party for any editing, adaptation, modification and/or publication of any Essay.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

In the event that the operation, security, or administration of the Contest is impaired in any way for any reason, including but not limited to fraud, virus, bug, worm, unauthorized human intervention or other technical problems, or in the event the Contest is unable to run as planned for any other reason, as determined by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, either (a) suspend the Contest to address the impairment and then resume the Contest in a manner that best conforms to the spirit of these Official Rules, or (b) terminate the Contest and, in the event of termination, award or not award the prize in the sole discretion of the Sponsor. The Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify any individual it finds to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Contest or to be acting in violation of these Official Rules or in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner. Any attempt by any person to damage the website or undermine the legitimate operation of the Contest may be a violation of criminal and civil law, and, should such an attempt be made, the Sponsor reserves the right to seek damages (including attorney fees) and any other remedies from any such person to the fullest extent permitted by law. Failure by the Sponsor to enforce any provision of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision.

DISPUTES:

Except where prohibited, you agree that any and all disputes, claims and causes of action arising out of, or connected with, the contest or any prize awarded shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, and exclusively by the appropriate state or federal court located in Orange County, Florida. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Rules, your rights and obligations, or the rights and obligations of the Sponsor in connection with the Contest, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of Florida, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules that would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than Florida.

LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY:

By participating in the contest, you agree that you will not hold Plumb Line Consulting responsible or liable for:

- Any technical errors or problems associated with or caused by the contest (including, but not limited to, lost, interrupted or unavailable internet service provider (ISP), network, server, wireless service provider, or other connections; availability or accessibility or miscommunications or failed computer, satellite, telephone, cellular tower or cable transmissions, lines, or technical failure; jumbled, scrambled, delayed, or misdirected transmissions; or computer hardware or software malfunctions, failures or difficulties), or
- Any unauthorized human interference with the contest, or
- Any mechanical, network, electric, computer, human, printing or typographical errors, or
- Any other unintentional errors or problems in connection with the contest (including, but not limited to, errors that may occur in the administration of the contest, the announcement of the winner, the cancellation or postponement of the contest, or the processing of entries), or
- Any loss or damage to persons or property that may be caused, directly, or indirectly, in whole or in part, from your participation in the contest (including, but not limited to, any claims that your essay infringes any the rights of any third party), or
- Any death or personal injury arising from or in connection with the Contest, or
- Your acceptance, receipt, or misuse of the prize.

If anybody makes a claim against us in relation to your essay or your participation in the contest (such as, for example, that your essay infringes their intellectual property rights or right to privacy), you agree to indemnify us on demand against, and hold us harmless from, any and all losses, liability, damages and costs (including reasonable legal costs) suffered by, incurred by or awarded against us, or agreed by us in settlement of such claim, howsoever caused or arising.

You also agree that in any cause of action arising from or in connection with these Contest Rules, any claim you make against us will be limited to your cost of entering the contest.

CONTACT US:

If you have any questions in relation to the Contest, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at info@plumblineconsultinghr.com.