

# JA Business Ethics™ Essay Competition

Junior Achievement of Arizona's JA Business Ethics™ Essay Competition is open to all students that participated in the Business Ethics program in Arizona during the 2007-2008 school year. Essays may be submitted between **February 21, 2008 and April 15, 2008**. To submit your essay, click here:

<http://ethics.ja.org/gbees/submissions/default.aspx?cc=612807>

## Essay Competition Rules

Essays should describe a specific plan for the author to promote ethical decision-making in the group, using five (5) of the possible concepts outlined below the essay question.

- The contest is open to students who are currently participating in the *JA Business Ethics™*, or who have completed the *JA Business Ethics™* program during the 2007-2008 school year. Proof of participation may be required of winners.
- The essay submission should be between 500-1000 words in length, and should be submitted online through the submission page on the link provided by a participating local Member Nation or Area Office. Not all local Member Nation and Area Offices will be participating in this competition.
- One essay allowed per participant.
- Essay may be submitted in languages other than American English at the discretion of the local JA Member Nation or Area Office, but all essays advanced to the worldwide competition must be submitted or translated into American English. Speak with your local JA official for more details.
- Essay submissions must be the original work of the participant and submitted under the participant's legal name.
- Essays can be copied and pasted from another word processing program, but it the participant's responsibility to verify that all characters translated correctly when pasted, before submissions.
- Participants are required to retain a copy of their submitted essays, including title.
- In addition to the essay submission, the following information will be required from each participant: Student's name and email address, Parent/guardian name, email address, and telephone number, School name, telephone number, mailing address, and country, Teacher name and phone number, JA Volunteer name, and a title for the essay response.
- Winners submitting essays in the United States of America must provide a Social Security Number or tax id prior to receiving a monetary prize. With holding this information will disqualify the winner from being awarded the monetary prize.
- Essays will not be returned and become the property of JA Worldwide, to be used at their discretion, including written or online publication.
- Judges decisions are final, irrevocable and not reversible.

**Judging Criteria:** The essay will be judged on the following criteria, equally a total of 100 points:

### Ethics Content

1. The author answered the question asked by describing a specific plan in the essay for promoting ethical decision-making in the group. The plan demonstrated critical think on the part of the author. (10 points)
2. The author included and correctly applied five (5) of the required concepts in the essay. (30 points)

### Essay Structure and Conventions

3. The author clearly included an introduction that expressed the overall topic, theme, or thesis, and previewed the upcoming content of the piece. (10 points)
4. The author clearly provided two well-developed body paragraphs, including a main idea and supporting details. (10 points)
5. The author clearly included a conclusion that restated the overall topic, theme, or thesis, and reviewed the piece. (10 points)
6. The essay was free from significant spelling, grammar, and other conventions-related errors. (10 points)

### Essay Quality

7. The author expressed originality in content ideas and/or used creativity in the content delivery or voice. (10 points)
8. Overall, was the essay well-written? In other words, did the essay demonstrate flow and readability; was it interesting to read; and was it articulate? (10 points)

# ***JA Business Ethics™* Essay Competition**

## **Essay Question**

Imagine that you are back on Ethos Island, from Session One of *JA Business Ethics™*. You are ship-wrecked indefinitely, along with other passengers and the crew. All three groups have now agreed to work together in the group's best interest.

Overtime, your island group is contacted by people living on nearby islands. You find out that each island has unique resources to trade in return for the abundant fresh water and fresh water fish found in your lagoon. For example, some islands have plants with healing powers and some have larger herds of animals for food and labor. Soon, your island group begins to function like a business, as tasks are divided up and exchanges are made with other islanders.

You have the position of Ethics Consultant While there are people in charge of policing and enforcing the rules and laws; these are not your responsibilities. Your job is to foster ethical decision-making by the group and by its individual members. You also identify possible ethical dilemmas and assist in resolving them. Most importantly, your job is to create an atmosphere in which members of the group want to be ethical, as opposed to going by rules only to avoid consequences.

Using at least five (5) of the *JA Business Ethics™* concepts listed below, describe your specific plan for promoting ethical decision-making in your group.

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## **Possible *JA Business Ethics™* concepts to include: (minimum of five (5)).**

- Beliefs
- Board of directors
- Code of ethics
- Ethical dilemma
- Gatekeeper
- Goal
- Interdependence
- Multinational corporation
- Social Responsibility
- Stakeholder
- Stockholder
- Values
- Four Philosophies of How to Decide what's Ethical:
  - Consequences
  - Duties
  - Trainings and Teachings
  - Beliefs based on Universal Principles