



CABE 2025 Student Writing Guidelines

The Student Writing Awards at the CABE 2025 Annual Conference in Anaheim, California will focus on the many advantages of being bilingual/biliterate. The grade prompts for this year are:

Grades K-2

How does learning more than one language help you make friends and connect with family members? Share why you think it is important to be bilingual and bicultural.

Grades 3-5

How has becoming a bilingual, bicultural person helped you understand and connect with others? Explain how understanding other languages and cultures can create unity and acceptance within a community.

Grades 6-8 and 9-12

How has your journey in becoming a bilingual, bicultural person helped you embrace diversity, honor your heritage, and celebrate multilingualism? Explain how your linguistic and cultural assets will contribute to a more respectful and peaceful society.

All students will be acknowledged for their efforts. Winners will be selected by a committee in four grade-level categories, K–2, 3–5, 6–8, and 9–12, based on the following criteria:

- Content: How well the writing captures the essence of the theme
- Language: The use of expressive, authentic, and rich language
- Genre: The creative use of literary forms, such as short essay, poetry, narrative, biography, or song

Students are encouraged to approach their writing in an imaginative and meaningful manner, expressing themselves in English and another language. Teachers can assist students with focusing on the theme by exploring how their bilingual/biliteracy skills will enhance their opportunities for learning, career, leadership, self-esteem, as well as the development of their cultural legacy in the future. The use of the writing process is encouraged (prewriting, sharing, revising, editing, and publishing) to develop a meaningful and expressive composition. Each composition should focus on the theme and demonstrate final editing quality.

Criteria

- Compositions should be typed, double-spaced, and three pages maximum.
- Compositions should be submitted in two languages —English and the student’s other language.
- Students must be bilingual/biliterate or learning another language
- Submissions must include a color photo (high resolution, digital format).
- District has implemented the Seal of Biliteracy and/or pathways to the Seal of Biliteracy

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION



Honoring our Past, Embracing Our Future: 50 Years of Bilingual Advocacy & Excellence

One winner will be selected per grade-level category. Winners will read their excerpts from their composition during the CABE 2025 Annual Conference, March 26-29, 2025. Each winner will receive four banquet tickets: one for themselves, two for a parent(s) or guardian(s) and one for their classroom teacher.

- K–2 Grade Level: \$200
- 3–5 Grade Level: \$300
- 6– 8 Grade Level: \$500
- 9–12 Grade Level: \$1,000

In addition to the cash prizes, winners will receive transportation to the CABE conference and one-night on Friday, March 28, 2025, if needed.

The application submission deadline is December 6, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time). Late submissions will not be accepted. The student must be a California resident.

IMPORTANT: Students who have received the CABE Student Writing Contest Award within the last three years are ineligible to apply.