



# “Celebrate America” Creative Writing Contest

## The Contest

Since 1996, the American Immigration Council has lifted young voices and perspectives on immigration through our the “Celebrate America” Creative Writing Contest.

The Contest inspires fifth graders across the United States to reflect on and write about the theme “Why I’m Glad America Is a Nation of Immigrants” or “What Does It Mean to Be a Welcoming Nation.” The assignment and accompanying educational experiences provide America’s classrooms with an important opportunity to explore immigration and inclusion.

The contest begins at the local level, with regional contests run by chapters of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Each chapter sends its first-place entry to the Council for the national contest, which is made possible due to the generous support of the **Murthy NAYAK Foundation**.

The grand prize winner (and two guests) will win a trip to read their entry at an awards ceremony hosted by the American Immigration Council.

## The Impact

For over two decades, our contest has touched tens of thousands of students, teachers, and administrators with powerful stories of the immigrant experience — many of which are born directly out of students’ deeply personal experiences.

The contest has inspired over 100,000 fifth graders to share their stories through poetry, prose, and essays. This is an exponential leap from the dozen submissions the Council received when the contest originally began in 1996.

Our young authors have read their winning entries at school assemblies, naturalization ceremonies, and even into the Congressional Record. The Council hears firsthand accounts of how this contest impacts communities at all levels—increasing peer-to-peer understanding of what immigration means to our country and improving how educators teach and interact with their students around immigration and inclusion.

