

Dear Colleagues,

I invite you and your students to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual ACTR National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest. We had a successful contest in 2002 with 179 participants representing 23 universities and colleges. (I will post a separate message to the list announcing the 2002 winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual ACTR National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest.)

Participation in the Russian Essay Contest is an excellent way

- to have your students compete nationwide with their peers
- to raise the visibility of your Russian program
- to compete in a fun, field-wide event.

The contest is for undergraduates at all levels of Russian (1st through 4th-year), and there are categories for heritage learners.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me off list.

Sincerely,

Patricia Zody

\*\*\*\*\*  
4th ANNUAL ACTR NATIONAL POST-SECONDARY RUSSIAN ESSAY CONTEST

Students taking Russian in accredited colleges and universities are invited to participate in the fourth annual National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest sponsored by the American Council of Teachers of Russian.

All students must pay a registration fee according to the following schedule:

Students whose teacher is an ACTR member - \$3.00 per registration

Students whose teacher is not an ACTR member - \$4.50 per registration

Students may not register themselves, but can only be registered by a teacher.

To register your students, please send a registration form (below) and one check made out to "ACTR" to George Morris, ACTR Treasurer, 3109 Yale Boulevard, St. Charles, MO 63301-0462. All registrations must be received by January 24, 2003. Registrations received after the deadline will not be accepted.

When registering your students, please consult the criteria below to select the appropriate level.

Teachers whose students are participating in the contest will receive directions and the essay topic in late January 2003. Students will write their essays between Feb. 1 and Feb. 15, 2003 at a time selected by the instructor at each institution. Judges will review the essays in March 2003 and winners will be announced in early April 2003.

Please note that students cannot use any books or notes and may not work together. Essays must be written legibly in blue or black ink. The time limit for writing the essays will be one hour. The essays must be written in blue or black ink on lined or bluebook paper provided by teachers. Pencil is not acceptable (as it won't photocopy). After the students write the essay, teachers will make four photocopies of each essay as per the directions and then send the originals and three photocopies to Patricia Zody within 48 hours of the test date. All essays will be evaluated anonymously: no essay will be identifiable by the name or institution of the student who wrote it. Gold, silver, and bronze ribbon awards (certificates), as well as honorable mention, will be presented for the best essays at each level.

Teachers may not substitute students for those registered by the deadline. No refunds are available for students who don't show up for the essay contest.

Essays will be ranked according to levels as follows:

Category 1: Non-Heritage Learners (those learners who do not and did not ever speak Russian in the home)

Level One: students who at the time of the essay contest will have had fewer than 100 contact hours of instruction in Russian (whether in college alone or in college and high school). (This is mostly students in first-year Russian.)

Level Two: students who at the time of the essay contest will have had more than 100 contact hours, but fewer than 250 contact hours of instruction. (This is mostly students in second-year Russian.)

Level Three: students who will have had more than 250 contact hours, but fewer than 400 contact hours of instruction. (This is mostly students in third or fourth-year Russian.)

Level Four: students who will have had more than 400 contact hours of instruction. (This is mostly students in fourth-year or fifth-year Russian.)

Category 2: Heritage Learners

Heritage Learners (1): students who speak Russian with their families and who have attended school for fewer than 5 years in Russia or the former Soviet Union and may have had to relearn reading and writing skills after emigration.

Heritage Learners (2): students who speak Russian with their families and who have attended school for 5 or more years in Russia or the former Soviet Union and have not had to relearn reading and writing skills after emigration.

Judges will evaluate essays according to content (the ability to express ideas in Russian and communicate information about the topic) and length, lexicon, syntax, structure (grammatical and orthographic accuracy), and originality or creativity.

Awards will be announced in the ACTR Letter and the AATSEEL Newsletter. The best gold ribbon essays will be published again this year in the ACTR Letter.

Teachers with questions about the essay contest should contact:

Patricia L. Zody

Director, Center for Language Studies

Beloit College

700 College Street

Beloit, WI 53511

(608)363-2277

cls@beloit.edu

#### REGISTRATION FORM FOR NATIONAL POST-SECONDARY RUSSIAN ESSAY CONTEST

Name of Institution:

Name of Instructor:

Address:

E-Mail Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Name of Each Student Participating in Test, Category 1 or 2, and Level (according to guidelines listed above).

Send to George Morris, ACTR Treasurer, 3109 Yale Boulevard, St. Charles, MO 63301-0462 before January 24, 2003.

Official Registration Forms can also be found in the Fall 2002 ACTR Letter and the October 2002 AATSEEL Newsletter.