

Labor Essay Competition

May Day ---International Workers' Day celebrates the social and economic achievements of the labor movement throughout the United States and the World. It is also a day to commemorate the martyrs of the Haymarket Massacre who fought for the eight hour day. In honor of May Day, California State University Dominguez Hills will host a **Labor and Social Justice Fair on April 30, 2009 from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

In order to encourage our youth and communities as a whole to become more aware of May Day and the rich tradition of unions in the Los Angeles area, the University invites students and community to participate in a Labor History Essay Contest. The Essay Contest asks that people write on the topic:

"Unions and/or workers centers have been important to my family and my community because..."

We are offering many awards for outstanding essays. For both high school and college students, there will be a first prize of \$100, a second prize of \$75, and a third of \$50; there will be a prize of \$100 for the best essay from a non-college student labor/community member. A grand prize for the best essay in any category will be \$100 plus an iPod Nano with speakers.

Applicants may contact their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors or friends to learn what labor union membership and participation may have meant to them. Teachers are encouraged to assist students in developing meaningful essays and if possible to develop class projects to have students write about a family member or neighbor's experiences in the union.

Essays will be judged on the basis of compelling story, writing style, and significance of the topic. Essays should be approximately 350 words in length. The cover sheet must list the title of the essay, the student's name, address, and home telephone number, the name and address of the student's school and grade. If applicable, student may list their family member's union affiliation. Where the student is assisted or encouraged by a teacher, the teacher's name should also appear on the cover sheet.



Artwork by Ricardo Levins Morales

Applicants should send their completed essays to Dr. Vivian Price, California State University, Dominguez Hills, Department of Labor Studies, SCC 130, 1000 E Victoria St. Carson, CA 90747. Essays must be postmarked no later than March 30th.

Winners will be announced at the Labor and Social Justice Fair. Funds for prizes are donated by a variety of sponsors, including many local unions, the Dianne Middleton Foundation, and affiliated organizations.

We are available to do presentations for you to provide more information to classes and groups.

For more information, contact essay contest coordinator Teyanna Williams (213) 500-4780 or the Labor Studies office at 310-243-3640, or send an email to us at idspace@csudh.edu

Please distribute widely! Please let us know if you have presented this to your students or your group.