



## 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Hmong New Year Celebration 2020

River Centre – Saint Paul, Minnesota, 175 W Kellogg Blvd, St Paul, MN 55102  
Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

### RUBRICS FOR ESSAY CONTEST

#### 1. THE AIM:

The overarching aim of this essay contest is to capture the essence and importance of our theme for the 41th Anniversary of the MN Hmong New Year, which is: “EMBRACING the present, INSPIRING future generations.”

#### 2. EMBRACING the present:

While it is defined in a number of ways by various reference sources, for the purpose of this essay contest, the word “embrace” shall mean “accept.” Thus, embracing the present means, in a positive way, accepting or taking ownership of the present. That said, a writer is tasked with laying out what the present looks like today, by examining how far we have come as a community—in terms of achievements in education, businesses, political participation and in other relevant fronts. Also expound on some of the challenges still facing the community and the work that still lie ahead.

#### 3. INSPIRING future generations:

Briefly touch upon those who represent the future generations. Then, explain how today’s progress can serve as launchpads for them to reach higher and go farther.

#### 4. UNIFYING THE HMONG:

The writer needs to put forth a compelling narrative on how EMBRACING combined with INSPIRING can coalesce into a unifying and empowering force for the Hmong community.

#### 5. COLOR, SOPHISTICATION, AND EFFECT:

The essay will also be rated: a. how colorful (use of prose and poetry); b. how sophisticated (use of the various sentence structures); and c. how uplifting or thought provoking. Paramount in the essay, no matter who writes it, is proper grammar and correct spelling.

#### **Scoring the Essay:**

*The five criteria above are used for evaluating each essay; a scale of 1 to 20 points is assigned, with the latter being the highest point for each criterion. In all fairness, important factors such as the age and education level of the writer will be taken into consideration (so only apples can be compared with apples; pears with pears...).*

#### **Font size, margins, and length:**

Use default Microsoft Word margins: 1 inch, top and bottom; 1.25 inch, left and right. The essay should be word processed in 12-point Times New Roman fonts, double spaced with no single spacing anywhere and no extra spacing anywhere nor between paragraphs. The length should be no more than 1000 words or 4 pages (but no less than 750 words or 3 pages).