



**The Denver Branch of the ESU presents
The 17th Annual Dr. Howard F. Beckley High School Writing Competition**

**COMPETITION OPEN TO DENVER AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
COMPOSE AN ESSAY BETWEEN 800-1,500 WORDS
BASED ON THE BELOW PROMPT**

First Prize: \$500.00 Second Prize: \$250.00 Third Prize: \$100.00

Winners will be notified by November 29, 2026

**Email essay as a pdf attachment, with full name, school & teacher's name to
beckleywriting@gmail.com**

****entries must be received by 11:59pm on November 21****

**Winners must commit to attend the Denver ESU Celebration on Sunday, Dec. 6 to read their
winning essay. (1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Denver Woman's Press Club, Denver)**

****If unable to attend, prize money will be forfeited.**

Judges will grade entries on:

Adherence to correct English grammar, syntax, and punctuation

Effective and clear essay structure

Quality and originality of work

PROMPT:

With this year marking the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, DC, and rural Pennsylvania, we are called to commemorate a watershed event in US and world history. For people who watched or helped as the tragedy unfolded, that day changed the way Americans and others around the world lived their lives. From humankind's first discovery of fire to the invention of the printing press to the signing of the Civil Rights Act, everyday lives are changed by our own ingenuity and how we use it to interact with each other. Even personal events like births, marriages, and deaths can have a significant impact on how we experience the world. Maybe life-changing global events haven't happened in your lifetime; maybe something has happened personally that changed the way you view the world. Consider one such event, anywhere in the English-speaking world, big* or small, and, in a thoughtful, well-developed essay, discuss the ways in which people adapted to their new world order.

Remember: All resources must be clearly and appropriately cited using a MLA conventions including works cited page