**2018 Middle School and High School Topic: “**In the spirit of "The History of the World in 100 Objects," select three objects that are important to your life as a Foreign Service youth.  Describe them and explain their significance."

**Deadline:** Monday, April 16, 2018

**Prizes:**

* 3 prizes in the Middle School Category: 1st place: $500 2nd place: $300 3rd place: $150
* 3 prizes in the High School Category: 1st place: $800 2nd place: $500 3rd place: $300
* All winners will be honored at the Youth Awards Ceremony in the summer 2017.

**Eligibility & Entry Fee:**

* All US Foreign Service high school and middle school students are eligible to participate, except those whose parents are FSYF Directors or employees. For the purposes of the contest, the term Foreign Service youth applies to dependents of U.S. citizens who are employed by U.S. foreign affairs agencies, eligible for overseas assignment and report to Chief of Mission when at Post. For FSYF membership guidelines go to: [www.fsyf.org/Benefits](http://www.fsyf.org/Benefits)
* Participants must be members of the Foreign Service Youth Foundation by the April 16, 2018 deadline or must pay an entry fee of $20. Checks should be made payable to FSYF. To join FSYF, go to: [www.fsyf.org](file:///C:\Users\Jennifer\Documents\FSYF%20Electronic%20Files\Contests%20-%20Essay\2014\Forms\www.fsyf.org)

**Use of Essay**

* Essays will become the property of FSYF and/or McGrath. Essays may be posted to FSYF, McGrath or State Department websites or appear in FSYF publications or publicity. Winners’ names will appear in related newsletters, publicity and announcements.

**Essay Specifications:**

* Written in English with a word count not exceeding 1,000 words, excluding name, title and list of sources.
* Include author’s name, a title, page numbers and a list of source materials, if applicable.
* Be double-spaced, with 12-point Times New Roman font (or equivalent), and with 1” margin on all sides.
* Include a completed and signed entry form with essay.

**Judging Criteria**

* **Subject matter**: Relevance to the proposed topic; original or arresting subject, quality of insight and thought; unity of theme; imaginative imagery and concrete detail.
* **Organization**: Arrangement of material; clarity of description or argument; management of transitions.
* **Grammar and style**:  Command of the written language
* **Presentation**: Did you follow the contest rules about length, double spacing, font size etc? Did you cite your source materials if applicable?

**Submissions**

* Entry forms and essays should be submitted by attaching to an email to the following address:[**fsyf@fsyf.org**](mailto:fsyf@fsyf.org)

Include in the e-mail subject line the Contest Name and Entrant’s Name.

**About the Sponsor** Cash prizes are made possible by McGrath Real Estate Services, a property management firm founded and owned by a Foreign Service family. McGrath employees understand the special needs of homeowners who are transferred abroad and want to feel good about their real estate choice. For more than 30 years, McGrath has successfully represented Foreign Service Officers, World Bank executives and educated investors in every aspect of residential property management. [www.McGrathRealEstate.com](http://www.McGrathRealEstate.com)

Last Name: First Name: 🞎 Male 🞎 Female

Age: Grade: School:

Email: Current Post:

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Agency of Employment: Official USG Email:

Parent Personal Email:

My family is a member of the Foreign Service Youth Foundation. 🞎 Yes 🞎 No

If you answered “No” above, please choose one of the following responses:

🞎 My family is not yet a member but we have completed the membership application and submitted payment.

🞎 No, my family is not a member of FSYF. We do not wish to join at this time. A $20 entry fee has been mailed (mailed payments must be received by contest deadline date) or has been paid online.

I am entering (check one): 🞎 Middle School Essay Contest 🞎 High School Essay Contest

Title of Essay:

Word Count:

*Student’s Honor Statement****:***

This essay represents my own work. I am eligible to participate in the FSYF Essay Contest. I understand that my essay will become the property of FSYF to use at its discretion, that it will not be returned to me, and that the judges’ decisions are final.

Student's Signature**:** Date**:**

***Parent Permission:***

**By signing this, I agree to allow McGrath Real Estate Services and the Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF), to use and/or publish the essay that I have submitted to the FSYF Essay Contest, and to use my child's name to identify the author of the essay. I release McGrath Real Estate Services and FSYF from any claims that occur in connection with the use of the original essay. I have read the foregoing and fully understand the contents thereof.**

**Name of Parent or Guardian (printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Signature of parent or guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_