

Rules of the competition:

1. The teacher must be living.
2. Your experience with the teacher must have been in a school, college, university, or other instructional institution, public, private, vocational or professional, military, etc.
3. Your essay must be typed, no longer than 500 words, and attached to this form along with the teacher agreement form.
4. The essay should describe: (a) the teacher's instructional and/or motivational techniques, behavior, manner, remarks, etc., with sufficient clarity and objectivity that they might inspire and be emulated by other teachers of high-IQ students, and (b) specifically how your educational experience or your life was affected profoundly, significantly, and/or lastingly.
5. Vague generalizations may detract from the possibility of winning.
6. Style of writing is not crucial but will be one factor considered by the judges.

The award:

1. The teacher cited in the winning essay will receive a plaque and an invitation to the MERF President's Event and to attend all activities at that year's Annual Gathering. Attendance is not required.
2. The teacher's school will receive a \$500 donation and a duplicate of the teacher's plaque.
3. If your essay wins and you are present at the Annual Gathering, you will receive recognition at the annual Awards Ceremony. You will be invited, along with the teacher, to the MERF President's Event on the same day. If your essay wins, you and the teacher will be notified before the AG.

Some tips on writing the essay:

1. Type your essay on plain white paper, double-spaced, with 1" margins.
2. Check your spelling and grammar and remember the traditional teacher's admonition, "Neatness counts."
3. Count your words. Essays longer than 500 words will not be considered. Information submitted on the Entry Form (names, school, etc.) should not be in the essay. Invent false names if you like.
4. Mail the Entry Form, your essay, and the signed Teacher Agreement Form to:

American Mensa, Ltd.
Distinguished Teacher Award
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington TX 76006-6103

5. You may want to keep a copy. No entries will be returned.
6. Write to the teacher. A sample letter is attached.

(Sample Letter to the Teacher Being Nominated):

Dear _____,

Surprise! Did you know that I'm now a member of Mensa? Mensa's associated philanthropic organization, the Mensa Education and Research Foundation, gives an annual Distinguished Teacher Award for the best 500-word essay on "A Teacher Who Changed My Life."

I'd like to submit an essay about my wonderful experience as a student of yours.

If my essay wins, you would receive a personalized plaque and an invitation to the Mensa Education and Research Foundation President's Event at next July's Mensa Annual Gathering. You will also be invited to attend all the Annual Gathering activities on that day. If you cannot attend, the presentation will be made at a location more suitable to you.

Your school would receive a duplicate of your plaque to display and a donation of \$500.

The rules require that you agree to participate in the competition. If you do, please sign the Teacher Agreement Form and return it to me.

Sincerely,

Teacher Agreement Form
Mensa Distinguished Teacher Award

I agree to have my name entered into the competition for the Mensa Distinguished Teacher Award. I understand that selected essays, winners or not, may be published by MERF or American Mensa, Ltd. My real name may _____ may not _____ be mentioned in a published essay.

Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Street address: _____

City/state/zip: _____