

THE PHOENIX RISING STUDENT ESSAY CHALLENGE

Phoenix Rising, a conference on all things *Harry Potter* to be held May 17-21, 2007, in and around the French Quarter of New Orleans, invites high school students who reside or attend school within the limits of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. Tammany, St. Charles, and St. John the Baptist parishes to enter the Phoenix Rising Student Essay Challenge with a written or digital essay. Five winners of the challenge will each receive a full weekend registration to Phoenix Rising, as well as a registration for a chaperone.

The challenge prompt is:

The themes of death and rebirth are recurring in the Harry Potter novels. In what instances in the stories are these themes most evident? How does J. K. Rowling use rebirth to counteract occurrences of death and destruction? What implications might this have as the series draws to a close with the seventh book? Finally, how can readers use the lessons presented with these themes when facing death and hardships in their own lives?

In your response, first use examples from the Harry Potter novels. For the last question, you may draw on your experiences or from the experiences of those in your community.

All entries are due March 1, 2007, and winners will be announced on March 15, 2007. Please see the challenge rules for more information, and e-mail studentchallenge@thephoenixrises.org with any questions.

RULES:

1. Your entry must be original to you. By submitting your entry, you represent and warrant that you are the author of all elements of your entry or, if you are not the author of one or more elements, that you have the right to use all elements of your entry.
2. All entries must be received no later than March 1, 2007, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. The preferred method of entry is via e-mail to studentchallenge@thephoenixrises.org.
3. You may only submit one entry, regardless of medium. Should you submit more than one entry, all your entries will be disqualified. Immediate family of Phoenix Rising staff are not eligible to participate.
4. Written essays should be no more than 2,000 words, and should be e-mailed to studentchallenge@thephoenixrises.org by the deadline. The e-mail should include the student's name, the name of the student's school and its address, and the name and e-mail or phone number for the student's parent or guardian. The essay may either be included in the body of the e-mail or attached as a file saved as .doc, .txt, .htm/.html or .rtf. Alternatively, two copies of the entire essay entry, including a contact e-mail address, may be mailed to Phoenix Rising, P.O. Box 149, Sedalia, CO, 80135, and must be received by the March 1, 2007, deadline.
5. Digital essays should consist of an edited response using still or moving pictures and/or audio between 3-5 minutes in length. An additional written portion of 300-500 words that supports and builds upon the digital portion should accompany the entry. Use of any copyrighted material, whether audio, written words, or images, without demonstrated permission will result in disqualification. The e-mail entry for a digital essay should include the student's name, the name of the student's school and its address, and the name and e-mail or phone number for the student's parent or guardian. The additional written essay may either be included in the body of the e-mail or attached as a file saved as .doc, .txt, .htm/.html or .rtf, and the entrant may e-mail digital essays of file size up to 10 MB, or provide a location where the digital essay can be found online.

Alternatively, two copies of the entire digital essay entry, including the digital essay on CD or DVD and a contact e-mail address, may be mailed to Phoenix Rising, P.O. Box 149, Sedalia, CO, 80135, and must be received by the March 1, 2007, deadline.
6. Winners must be at least 14 years of age by May 17, 2007, and must have attended high school during the 2006-2007 academic year.
7. Each winner will receive e-mailed gift certificates, which must be used for the student and an accompanying chaperone. The winners are solely responsible for any and all taxes due and payable upon receipt of gift certificates. Gift certificates are not exchangeable for cash and may not be sold, traded, exchanged, or returned. Registration must be made online at <http://www.thephoenixrises.org/registration>. Winners and accompanying chaperones must be registered by April 10, 2007.
8. Entries will be judged on their quality as determined by representatives of Phoenix Rising. Judging decisions are final and may not be appealed.
9. The winners will be required to grant Phoenix Rising a license to display the winning entry, including the name (real or pseudonym) of the winner, on the internet and at Phoenix Rising.



This conference is not endorsed, sanctioned or any other way supported, directly or indirectly, by Warner Bros. Entertainment, the *Harry Potter* book publishers, or J. K. Rowling and her representatives. Phoenix Rising is presented by Narrate Conferences, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to producing dynamic, innovative events for scholars, students, professionals and fans. A fundamental purpose of Narrate Conferences is to educate and explore through both traditional and non-traditional interactions, including promoting collaboration among diverse groups.

Phoenix Rising can be found on the Web at <http://www.thephoenixrises.org>. Narrate Conferences, Inc., can be found at <http://www.narrateconferences.org>. Questions about these groups can be directed to info@narrateconferences.org or Narrate Conferences, Inc., P.O. Box 149, Sedalia, CO, 80135.

