



**American Immigration Law Foundation
“Celebrate America” Fifth Grade Creative Writing Contest**

SUGGESTIONS FOR INITIAL COMMITTEE SCREENING

Essay Anonymity

Before providing the panel of screeners with the creative writing entries, assign each entry a number and delete any reference to the author’s name, school or other identifying information. The top ten entries should also be submitted to the panel judges identified by number only.

Initial Screening

This can be done a number of ways, depending on the number of entries received. If there are a large number of entries, divide the entries evenly between the screeners, and ask each screener to choose the top three entries from their group using the suggested criteria indicated below (or other criteria developed by the Creative Writing Contest Committee). A smaller committee can then review the top three entries from each group, using the same criteria, to select the “final” top ten for submission to the panel judges.

Alternatively, if a more manageable number of entries are received, each screener can review and rank all of the entries and select the top ten for submission to the panel judges.

Judging Criteria

To determine the top ten entries please use the following criteria:

Content/Theme: How well does the entry explain “Why I Am Glad America Is A Nation Of Immigrants”?

Presentation: Are ideas well developed?

Creativity: This is self-explanatory.

Powerful Message: Are you moved by the message?

We suggest that each category be given a score from 1 to 5 (5 being the best). Add up the scores from each category so that each entry receives a total score out of 20. The attached scorecard may be helpful.

