



Inspire. Educate. Connect.

# BestPrep's Educational Forum Essay Competition

Keynote Speaker:

THOMAS  
FRIEDMAN

"The Big Trends  
Shaping the  
World Today"



## Student and Educator Packet For Minnesota High School Students

*Sponsored by*



THOMSON REUTERS

# Educational Forum 2019

## Essay Competition

### Introduction

BestPrep, a Minnesota based nonprofit, and essay sponsor Thomson Reuters are excited to again offer an essay competition for high school students in conjunction with the BestPrep Educational Forum. The Forum is a biennial event launched in 2008 to explore topics of current relevance for business and education. This year's essay prompt challenges students to take a deeper look into how we can be intentional and thoughtful people in our fast-paced world.

### Who is eligible?

Students can participate if they are in grades 9-11 in a Minnesota public, private, charter, or home school during the 2018-2019 school year. Students must have an educator review and submit their essay.

### How will the essay be judged?

Essays will be read and judged by a panel of business and education volunteers on the following criteria: comprehension/understanding of the subject matter, organization, mechanics and grammar, conclusions, and creativity.

### What are the prizes?

BestPrep and sponsor Thomson Reuters will invite the top 20 Minnesota high school student essay winners and their respective teachers to attend the Educational Forum on October 7, 2019 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. Included is a private evening reception with the Education Forum's keynote speaker, journalist, author, and three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, Thomas Friedman, before the event begins. No more than 3 winners will be selected from the same school.

The students will also receive the following prizes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: \*13" MacBook Air
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: iPad Air 2
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: iPad Mini 4
- 4<sup>th</sup> place: Beats Solo 3 Wireless Headphones
- 5<sup>th</sup> place: Google Home

*\*The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner will also receive the Kristie Award, named in honor of long time BestPrep volunteer and board member Kristie Greve. Kristie was a gifted writer with a passion for the written word. She had a successful career in communications, lasting more than 40 years. The Award is a fitting tribute to her passion for helping Minnesota students prepare for a successful future.*

The remaining 15 winners will each receive a \$50 Walmart gift card. Educators representing the top 5 students will each receive a \$100 VISA gift card.

## Essay Topic

In *Thank You for Being Late*, Thomas Friedman makes a case for taking time in our fast-paced world to be intentional and thoughtful members of our personal, local, and global communities. To you, what does it mean to be a thoughtful community member? And, what can you and/or others do now to make a meaningful impact?

## Optional Essay Resources:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9x9wa4r>

Follow the link on the previous page to access these optional resources. Included is a video of Thomas Friedman and a link to find *Thank You for Being Late*. If you find any resources that other participants and classes could benefit from, feel free to submit them to Jenna Gale ([jgale@bestprep.org](mailto:jgale@bestprep.org)) and they may be added to the shared document.

### Essay Specifics:

- Essay must be typed, double-spaced, with left and right margins at 1 inch each. Font should be 12 point Times New Roman or similar.
- Essay must follow MLA or APA standards for references, quotations and works cited page.
- Essay must be between 600-750 words. The word count includes all words in the essay text. It does NOT include the cover page (student/educator information), the bibliography, endnotes or references.
- Essay must be submitted as a Word document.

### Deadline and submission:

- Entries must be submitted electronically by **April 15, 2019** to [jgale@bestprep.org](mailto:jgale@bestprep.org).
- We request that you register your class ahead of time so that we can reserve the appropriate number of essay judges. Register your class [HERE](#).
- Educators must submit essays and act as a key contact with BestPrep.
  - Educator must review essays and make sure it addresses the topic and is free of grammatical errors.
- Educators will be notified of the results on May 17, 2019.

*This entire student and educator packet is available for download in Word format at:*  
<https://bestprep.app.box.com/file/362612470972>

## Who is BestPrep?

*BestPrep prepares students with business, career and financial literacy skills through hands-on experiences that inspire success in work and life. BestPrep fulfills this mission through offering seven innovative programs to Minnesota students and educators:*

**Classroom Plus** provides volunteer speakers, tours and mock interviews which enhance classroom curriculum for grades 4-12. Speakers focus on topics regarding business and career skills.

**eMentors** matches a high school class with business professionals through weekly emails based on guiding questions. The students and mentors meet once during the program at the volunteer's workplace.

**Financial Matters** provides classroom presentations given by professionals from the financial industry. Topics focus on financial literacy and provide students with real-life lessons in money management.

**Minnesota Business Venture** is a week long summer program held at University of St. Thomas and St. John's University that provides students access to information on careers, money management, and business in a fun setting.

**The Stock Market Game™** is an online simulation in which students invest a virtual \$100,000, competing against other students across Minnesota while enhancing math, reading, writing and team building skills.

**Technology Integration Workshop** for teachers is a four-day professional development opportunity designed to help teachers enhance their technology skills.

**Cloud Coach** is a weekly email mentoring program that features full 9<sup>th</sup> grade participation in Minneapolis and St. Paul public schools, emphasizing student motivation, career aspiration, perseverance, and effort.

# Essay Cover Page

The below information should be typed on page 1 of the essay; start the essay text on page 2.

This should be the only page with your personal information. **Do NOT provide any personal information (such as your name in the header) in the remainder of your essay.** This is for judging purposes.

## Student Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in School 9  10  11

Class Submitting Essay Through \_\_\_\_\_

(Ex. English, Social Studies, AVID, College Possible, etc.)

How did you hear about the competition? \_\_\_\_\_

## School Information

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Educator Information

Educator Name and Title \_\_\_\_\_

Educator Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Certification Information

(By typing the below statement on page one of the essay, you are agreeing to the following statement.)

I pledge that this essay is my own work. I have had an educator review the essay ensuring it meets the requirements of BestPrep's Educational Essay Competition. I understand that my essay will not be returned and will become the property of BestPrep to use at its discretion. If my essay is chosen as a winner, my name, school, city, etc. will be used in future press and promotion.

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_