



Dear Educator,

Please find enclosed the 2009/2010 Scenarios USA "What's the REAL DEAL about Masculinity?" curriculum and writing contest kit.

Teachers, administrators, community members, parents and students have all told us the same thing: untangling the meaning of gender is important and engaging. From within gender, the study of masculinity is especially relevant and important to *all* young people. The Scenarios USA approach of putting gender at the heart of Language Arts, Social Studies, Drama and Health Education promotes higher level thinking skills, helps students build confidence in their own voice, changes attitudes which are linked to sexual health risk and violence, and improves students' overall educational experience.

Incentives for students to participate

- Each student writer receives a **Certificate of Achievement** and feedback on his or her writing
- Twelve finalists get **special recognition on the Scenarios USA website**
- All students who submit to the contest will have a chance to apply to be **mentored on the set of the film** produced in their community
- The runner-up from each region will have a **one-on-one session with a professional writer** to further develop his or her writing skills

What happens if my student wins?

Scenarios USA will:

- Partner the winning writer(s) with a Hollywood filmmaker
- Facilitate the partnership as the winning writer(s) and the filmmaker develop the writing into a working script, which will be filmed in the student's community in Spring/ Fall 2010
- Give each winning writer a cash prize of \$500 and letters of recommendation from Scenarios USA
- Train each winning writer in public speaking and advocacy
- Host a premiere in NYC in late 2010 where the winning writers, their teachers and their directors are honored before an invited audience

Your students are about to embark on a journey of self-reflection, critical awareness and creativity that could result in their being partnered with a Hollywood filmmaker and creating a film based on their writing. Thank you for your interest, dedication and participation.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maura Minsky", is positioned below the "Warm regards," text.

Maura Minsky
Co-Founder & Executive Director



CONTEST GUIDELINES

Contest eligibility

1. The Scenarios USA "What's the REAL DEAL?" writing contest is open to students grades 6-12, living in New York City, NY; the Rio Grande Valley, TX; and Cleveland, OH
2. Groups of **no more than four people** may submit a single piece of writing together

Contest Kit Inventory

1. Student Application Form
2. Student Reflection Letter
3. Teacher Questionnaire
4. Assessment Rubric
5. *What's the REAL DEAL about Masculinity?* Curriculum, including 3 Scenarios USA films (located inside the back cover)
6. 20 Scenarios USA journals
7. Contest poster – please hang in your classroom!

Preparing to submit for the contest

1. Teach your students most, if not all, of the lessons from the curriculum adapting the lessons to fit your teaching needs
2. Foster your students' creativity through the discussions, journal writing, film viewing and research activities in the curriculum and help them to consolidate their ideas into a full story, play or script as the final presentation of work

Student submission requirements

1. Submissions must be typed or written in black or dark blue ink
2. Submissions may be in the form of a story, play or script no more than 10 pages single-sided or 5 pages double-sided, no smaller than 10 pt font
3. Each page must be numbered
4. Writers' names and the submission's title should appear on the first page **ONLY**

Submission checklist

In order to consider your students' submissions, we must receive the following documents postmarked **no later than Friday, December 4th**:

1. Your students' submissions in the form of a story, play or script
2. *Student Application Form* completed by each student writer **and** signed by a parent/caregiver, if the writer is under 18
3. *Student Reflection Letter* completed by each student writer
4. *Teacher Questionnaire* completed by the educator who taught the curriculum

PLEASE MAIL TO:

Scenarios USA

REAL DEAL Contest

80 Hanson Place, Suite 305

Brooklyn NY 11217

Please contact us with questions or comments at 866-414-1044 or by email to ernestine@scenariosusa.org. Winners will be chosen by **February 26, 2010**.