

The **CCLET's** 8th Annual Essay Competition is open to high school students across Canada. In memory of the late Bernard Chernos, a civil libertarian, lawyer, and a lover of lively debate, a prize of \$250 will go to the student whose essay is chosen for publication. A matching contribution of \$250, along with a signed copy of *When Freedoms Collide*, by A. Alan Borovoy, will go to the department of the teacher submitting the entry. This competition will be of special interest to teachers and students in such courses as Civics, History, Law, Politics, World Issues, and other Social Studies subjects.

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TEACHERS – Consider assigning the essay and submit the best in the class!

TIPS FOR CONTESTANTS

To help you assess the fairness of each measure, ask and answer the following three questions:

- ▶ Why? What is the purpose of the intended measure?
- ▶ Will it work? Will the measure achieve its purpose?
- ▶ What else will it do? What might be some of the side effects of the measure, intended or unintended?

The Eighth Annual CCLET Bernard Chernos Essay Competition



Take the
Challenge
Win
\$250!

COMPETITION RULES

An essay of three or four double-spaced typed pages (**750 to 1000 words**) to be written by a student who is currently enrolled in a secondary school. The essay must address ONE of the questions in the attached sheet. For assistance, please see *The Fundamentals of Our Fundamental Freedoms*, by A. Alan Borovoy. Copies can be obtained by request at the address listed below or downloaded from the **Canadian Civil Liberties** website at www.ccla.org.

The author's name, age, address, telephone number, school, and school address should appear on the cover sheet, but **not** on the essay pages. Submissions must be post-marked or e-mailed no later than **March 31, 2009**. The essays will be judged by a panel of three, chosen by the **Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust (CCLET)**. The winner will be notified by the end of June 2009.

Submissions should be sent by post to Danielle McLaughlin, Director of Education, **Canadian Civil Liberties**, 506 - 360 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M5S 1X1; by FAX to 416-861-1291; or by e-mail to education@ccla.org.

THE QUESTIONS

Each question deals with one or more rights as referred to in *The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Choose ONE question and write an essay of 750 to 1000 words (3 to 4 pages double-spaced) discussing how, in your view, a democratic society should resolve the issue.

- 1.** Recently, there have been many news reports about young people committing violent crimes with knives. In order to deal with this problem, the police in a Canadian city are looking for a power to stop and search teenagers for knives. They want those found with knives of any kind to be prosecuted and possibly imprisoned. Is this measure fair? Why or why not?
- 2.** Residents of a public housing project are very concerned about violent crimes committed by young people in their community. The community council meets and passes a motion to implement a measure that would result in the eviction of families whose children or teenagers have been charged with violent offences. Is this measure fair? Why or why not?
- 3.** In certain communities, there have been many complaints about young people "loitering" or "hanging out" at all hours in public places. A device called a "mosquito" was developed to deal with this problem. It emits an unpleasant, loud, high pitched sound, but can only be heard by people under 25 years of age. The communities want to purchase the devices and place them in the areas where young people gather. Is this measure fair? Why or why not?
- 4.** A high school requires student groups to obtain the principal's approval in order to hold meetings and post notices on school property. The principal decides to deny approval of the Choose Life (anti-abortion) group and the Students for Choice group on the grounds that the issue of abortion is too controversial. The principal says that both views are likely to cause offence to certain students and staff at the school. Is the principal's decision fair? Why or why not?