



AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL

***For Immediate Release***

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**The American Immigration Council Announces Annual Writing Contest Winner:  
Julia Culbert from Santa Clara Valley, CA**

Washington, DC-The [American Immigration Council](http://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org) is pleased to announce the winners of the national 5<sup>th</sup> Grade *"Why I Am Glad America Is a Nation of Immigrants"* creative writing contest.

Thousand of entries were submitted from around the nation and the top scoring entries were sent to a panel of celebrity judges. The winners are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Julia Culbert, Saratoga Elementary School, Saratoga, CA  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Emily Margaret Lindal, Laurelhurst Elementary School, Seattle, WA  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Kathryn Long, Summerfield Elementary School, Summerfield, NC  
Honorable Mention: Teagan Betori, Lake Travis Elementary School, Austin, TX &  
Deidre Heavey, St. Gabriel School, San Francisco California.

First place winner Julia Culbert's winning entry – "America's Fried" is a delightful fable about a group of mice who are arguing about politics but come together while cooking up a batch of fried rice- "My fried rice is mixed, like with each person immigrating here, and it tastes better with a little bit of each, like all the different cultures in America."

The authors of the top five entries will have flag flown over the Capitol in their honor. Culbert's winning piece will be printed in the *Congressional Record* and she will receive an all-expenses-paid trip for four to Washington, DC, where she'll recite her essay at the American Immigration Law Foundation's Annual Benefit on Friday, July 2.

Julia's essay was judged the winner by critically acclaimed authors Firoozeh Dumas, Belle Yang, Warren St. John and Gish Jen.

Each year, the American Immigration Council hosts its Annual Benefit to recognize the contributions and impact immigrants have on America. This year's gala takes place Friday evening, July 2, during the 2010 AILA Annual Conference in Washington, DC and will focus on recognizing the contribution of female immigrants.

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**The American Immigration Council's Curriculum Center** strives to promote a better understanding of immigrants and immigration by providing educational resources that inspire people to engage in thoughtful dialogue, creative teaching, and critical thinking while being culturally and historically sensitive to others. Visit our website at [www.communityeducationcenter.org](http://www.communityeducationcenter.org).

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