



## ***II ESSAY CONTEST IV SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS***

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) is organizing the II Essay Contest – IV Summit of the Americas, heading towards the Summit of Heads of State and Government that will take place in Mar del Plata, Argentina on November 4-5, 2005. The contest is open to university students in an effort to continue encouraging the participation of different sectors in the Summit Process.

### ***OBJECTIVE***

To link university students to the Process of the Summit of the Americas and to stimulate analytical thinking of the youth regarding the key issues of the region, as well as to encourage the participation of diverse actors in the Summit Process in the formulation of ideas and recommendations on the central topic of the IV Summit.

### ***PARTICIPANTS***

The II Essay Contest is open to undergraduate and graduate university students from the 34 member states of the OAS. The participants should present verification of enrollment in an accredited academic institution located in one of the member states.

### ***THEME***

The essays must be focused on the theme of the IV Summit “Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance”.

### ***ESSAY PRESENTATION AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES***

The essays must be original and should be written individually using Microsoft Word. They should be no longer than 10 pages, double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font. All papers must be accompanied by an executive summary of half a page (200 words).

Contestants have the option to send their paper as an attachment to: [gochoa@oas.org](mailto:gochoa@oas.org). Included in the paper should be the name of the author, the name of the academic institution, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the participant. Alternatively, those contestants who wish to send their paper via mail, should include the printed version of the paper and a corresponding diskette with the electronic file to:

II Essay Contest- IV Summit of the Americas  
Summits of the Americas Secretariat  
Organization of American States  
1889 F Street  
Washington, DC 20006  
Telephone (202) 458-6437  
Fax: (202) 458-3665  
Email: [gochoa@oas.org](mailto:gochoa@oas.org)

## ***PRIZES***

The authors of the five best essays (one for each region- North America, Central America, Caribbean, Andean Region, and MERCOSUR) will be invited to attend the IV Summit of the Americas. The 5 students will be awarded an all expense paid trip (airfare, hotel and meals), from their city of origin to Mar del Plata, Argentina, host of the IV Summit of the Americas which will take place on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Mar del Plata, Argentina to participate as observers in the Summit. The winner essays will also be published in the Summits of the Americas website.

## ***RECEPTION DEADLINE***

The reception period for the essays, both electronic and hard copy versions, will end on September 27, 2005. It is the responsibility of the participants to assure that the essay arrives on time to the Summits of the Americas Secretariat.

## Schedule

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Deadline for essay's submission	September 27
Announcement of winning essays	October 13
XLI SIRG meeting	November 1-2
IV Summit of the Americas	November 4-5

## ***EVALUTION CRITERIA***

1. Theme of the contest: "Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance"
2. Essay structure (introduction, body, and conclusion), punctuation and spelling.
3. Proper use of grammar, syntax, quality and precision of vocabulary.
4. The essay should demonstrate the student's reflection and understanding of the topic
5. Material should be properly cited
6. Development of recommendations and conclusions consistent with presented proposals
7. Ability to produce critical and creative thinking and capacity to support points of view and conclusions
8. Use of examples and reliable resources to explain ideas
9. Knowledge and understanding of the theme, variables and concepts related to it
10. The essays should not have been previously published, nor have been submitted in previous contests

The essays should be written in **English** or **Spanish**.

The decision of the jury will be non-contestable.

## ***BACKGROUND***

In the framework of the preparations for the Special Summit of the Americas which took place in Monterrey, Mexico on January 12-13 2004, the Summits of the Americas Secretariat organized the [first Essay Contest](#) regarding the key topics of the Special Summit of the Americas. University students were invited to present their work in the areas of economic growth with equity, social development, and democratic governance. Three university students from Peru, Mexico, and the United States were awarded the opportunity to participate as observers in the Special Summit and were recognized by the Secretary General of the OAS during the Meeting of the Civil Society with the Heads of Delegations.

For additional information about the IV Summit of the Americas, visit:

[www.summit-americas.org](http://www.summit-americas.org)