

Seeking Student Writing!

Topic: What will Barack Obama's presidency mean for *my* education?

Dear teachers and youth leaders,

The *Harvard Educational Review* is looking for student essays on what Barack Obama's presidency will mean for their education—and we would like your help! Please consider working with young people you know to encourage their participation in this important opportunity.

In addition to this introductory letter, this packet includes a flyer appropriate for middle and high school students, a flyer geared toward younger students, and an information form to be filled out by teachers or others submitting multiple pieces of student work.

Purpose:

We are marking Barack Obama's election to the presidency of the United States with a special issue of the *Harvard Educational Review* that will address the significance of this election. Because students are among the most important voices in American education, we would like to invite students to contribute to the journal and have their work considered for publication alongside essays by practitioners, professors, and scholars. We are not seeking work that espouses a certain view; instead, we would like to compile a collection of diverse perspectives on the recent election.

Submission information:

We are accepting essay submissions from K–12 students anywhere in the U.S. that address the question: *What will Barack Obama's presidency mean for my education?* We are also open to receiving other forms of expression, such as poetry or artwork; younger children may submit their writing combined with illustrations. There is no length requirement for student submissions, but please note that submissions will not be returned. Please also be aware that artwork will only be published in black and white.

Each essay *must* be marked with the student's full name and grade level, the teacher's or youth leader's full name (if an adult is submitting the work on behalf of the student), and the name and full mailing address of the young person's school and/or organization. Individuals submitting writing from multiple students must also fill out and enclose the information form attached. Teachers or leaders who complete this project with an entire class or large group of students may submit the entire group's work, but must screen and flag 3–5 essays for us to prioritize in our consideration.

Writings must be received by February 20, 2009. They can be submitted electronically at HER.youthonObama@gmail.com to "Editors." Or, they can be submitted via mail at Harvard Educational Review, 8 Story Street, 1st Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138. Please submit materials either by e-mail or by mail, but not both.

Results:

Select entries will be forwarded on to President Obama at the White House. A chosen few will be selected for publication in the special Obama issue of the *Harvard Educational Review*. Published pieces will represent a variety of ages, perspectives, and ideas. Editors will be looking for pieces that are engaging and that demonstrate a strong voice. During the review process, editors reserve the right to edit pieces for surface errors and length.

By submitting their work, students give their permission for the Harvard Educational Review to forward their pieces on to the White House. Authors whose writings are selected for publication can expect to be notified by mid-March. At that point, editors will also obtain parental permission for publication.

Practitioner Perspectives:

In compiling a collection of thoughtful voices on the potential impact of this election, we are also interested in essays from educational practitioners—teachers, administrators, youth leaders—that address the question: What will Barack Obama’s presidency mean for education? Teachers are asked to write pieces that are 1,000 to 5,000 words. The submission deadline for practitioner pieces is February 6, 2009. If you would like more information on this opportunity for practitioners, please write to “Editors” at HER.youthonObama@gmail.com.

Seeking student writing from students of all ages!

Let President Obama and other
education leaders hear your voice

What will Barack Obama's presidency mean for my education?

The *Harvard Educational Review* wants to hear what students think this election means for their education. Select pieces will be sent to the White House, and a few will be chosen for publication by our editors in an upcoming issue of the *Harvard Educational Review*, a journal where professors, teachers, and other education experts discuss important issues in education.

All essays, and other forms of writing or art, should address the topic above. We are looking for diverse perspectives and engaging writing. There is no length requirement.

All pieces must be received by **February 20, 2009**.

You may e-mail your work to: HER.youthonObama@gmail.com.

Or, you may send your work by mail to the following address:

Editors
Harvard Educational Review,
8 Story Street, 1st floor,
Cambridge, MA 02138

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail the editors at HER.youthonObama@gmail.com.

See your teachers for more information!



Teacher or youth leader information form for submissions

Your name: _____

Grade level(s) you work with: _____

School or organization name: _____

Full school or organization address: _____

How should we contact you if one of these pieces is selected for publication in the journal? Please supply your e-mail address or phone number. _____

If you feel comfortable doing so, please list the names of 3 to 5 writers whose work you are submitting that you feel should certainly merit our consideration:



Seeking student writing from students of all ages!

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education leaders hear your voice

What will Barack Obama's presidency mean for my education?

The *Harvard Educational Review* is looking for students to write or create art about this topic. We will send select materials to the new president at the White House. Some pieces will be printed in an issue of the *Harvard Educational Review*.

This journal is like a magazine where professors, teachers, and other education experts talk about important issues in education.

Essays, or other forms of writing or art, should answer the question, "What will the Barack Obama's presidency mean for my education?" We are looking for lots of voices and strong writing. Essays can be as long as the writer chooses.

See your teachers for more information!

