



2025-2026

**César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta Education Awards Program  
Criteria and Specifications Form  
WRITTEN ESSAYS**

**Award Program Description**

The César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta Education Awards Program will provide recognition for educators and their students who demonstrate an understanding of the vision and guiding principles embraced by César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta. The Awards Program honors these great leaders and ensures that the spirit of their work continues in the classrooms of California.

**Award Criteria for Written Essays**

Participants **must** show evidence of how one or more of the below principles are evident in their lives.

Entries must focus on one or more of the following principles of César E. Chávez and/or Dolores Huerta's legacy:

- Principles of nonviolence
- Self-determination through unionization (forming and joining unions)
- Social justice for farmworkers
- Safe food/health/environmental issues
- Human and civil rights issues
- Teamwork, cooperation, collaboration, and/or service to others
- Empowerment of the disenfranchised
- Innovation and education

**Eligibility for Written Essays**

- The individual student **must** be enrolled at and attend the same school or campus as the sponsoring CTA member.
- Grade levels include:
  - First - Second grade
  - Third - Fourth grade
  - Fifth - Sixth grade
  - Seventh - Eighth grade
  - Ninth - Twelfth grade
  - Higher Education (Undergraduates only)
- We encourage applications from all students including Special Ed, Alternative Ed, ELL, etc.
- Submissions that do not meet the criteria will be ineligible.
- **NO BIOGRAPHIES!**

**Length of Essay**

Grades 1 – 2	Age-appropriate composition
Grades 3 – 4	200 – 300 words
Grades 5 – 8	400 – 600 words
Grades 9 – 12	800 – 1100 words
Higher Education (Undergraduates only)	1000 – 1500 words

**Please note the following:**

- Print and submit word count verification
- Provide an English translation of an essay if original piece is written in another language
- Grades 10th - Higher Education entries **must cite** resources, footnotes or a bibliography

**NOTE:**

**This written essay should NOT BE A BIOGRAPHY of César E. Chávez and/or Dolores Huerta.**

**Participants must show evidence of how one or more of the principles are evident in their lives and correlate their experience(s) to the work of César E. Chávez and/or Dolores Huerta.**

**Format of Essay**

- Double-spaced with 1" margins
- Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt.
- Pages numbered
- Grades 1 – 2 must be legibly written or typed
- Grades 3 – Higher Education must be **typed**; otherwise, a letter explaining circumstances must be included by the sponsoring CTA member
- Staple pages, DO NOT place into folder or binder
- American Psychological Association (APA) or Modern Language Association (MLA) Format

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- Application forms are available online at: [www.cta.org/chavez-huerta-award](http://www.cta.org/chavez-huerta-award)
- Any submission can be reproduced for promotion purposes.

**Deadline:**

Each entry **must** be submitted with a separate application and **must** be received by **Friday, March 6, 2026**.

**SEND ENTRIES TO:**

CTA Human Rights Department  
César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta Education Awards Program  
PO Box 921  
Burlingame, CA 94011-0921  
Attn: Janeya Dawson