



## RIO GRANDE ELECTRIC CO-OP 2010 ESSAY CONTEST

Eligible students ages 14-18 could win a new Wi-Fi laptop computer system, if selected as one of the two (2) winning entrants in the 2010 RGEC Essay Contest. To be eligible, a student's parent or legal guardian must be a member of Rio Grande Electric Cooperative (RGEC). This means they must have an electric account in their name with the Co-op. (*Renters who reimburse landlords for their electrical usage are not members of RGEC.*)

**Essay Topic: "The Cooperative Advantage"**

### **Rules:**

1. Original essays should be created using Microsoft Word and Times New Roman 12 point type font, and should be 500-700 words in length. (Word count will be according to Microsoft Word.)
2. References to family names, specific locations, or any information that might reveal the identity of the writer must NOT be included in the body of the essay.
3. Essays should be saved on a CD. Clearly label the CD with the entrant's name, grade, and school.
4. Deadline: Entries must be received by mail in the Cooperative's Brackettville office by 5:00 p.m. April 23, 2010. The address is RGEC ESSAY CONTEST, P.O. Box 1509, Brackettville, TX 78832.
5. Entries must not be given to RGEC employees or board members to turn in, or they will be immediately disqualified.
6. A blind judging of all qualified entries will be conducted by RGEC's board of directors at the regularly scheduled May board meeting, and winners notified thereafter. The decision of the judges is final.

### **Additional Information**

Applicants may find helpful information about the cooperative business model online at the following sites and others: [www.riogrande.coop](http://www.riogrande.coop); [www.ncba.coop/primer.cfm](http://www.ncba.coop/primer.cfm); [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov); [www.coop.org](http://www.coop.org)

Contestants are reminded that judges will be familiar with the information contained on these and other sites, and will disqualify any essay exhibiting plagiarism.

**Information packets containing complete rules and entry forms are being distributed to school superintendents throughout RGEC's service territory this month (January). Students may obtain the entry information and form from their school, online at [www.riogrande.coop](http://www.riogrande.coop), at any RGEC area office, or by calling 1-800-749-1509, ext. 1182, and requesting a packet by mail.**