



## RIO GRANDE ELECTRIC CO-OP 2012 ESSAY CONTEST

**Eligibility:** Students ages 14-18, whose parents/legal guardians are members of RGEC. (This means they have an electric account in their name.)

**Topic:** “The Cooperative Advantage”

**Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. April 20, 2012

**Prize:** Laptop Computer & printer/accessories

**Number of Prizes Awarded:** 2

### Rules:

1. Students must be enrolled in school and ages 14-18. Their parent(s)/legal guardian must be members of RGEC. (Have an electric account in their name.)
2. Original essays should be created using Microsoft Word and Times New Roman 12 point type font, and must be 500-700 words in length. (Word count will be according to Microsoft Word.)
3. 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. Doing so will disqualify the writer.
4. Essays should be saved on a CD. Clearly label the CD with the entrant’s name, grade, and school. Printed entry forms (available from schools or on the RGEC website) must accompany CDs.
5. Deadline: Entries must be received by postal mail in RGEC’s Brackettville office by 5:00 p.m. April 20, 2012. The address is RGEC ESSAY CONTEST, P.O. Box 1509, Brackettville, TX 78832. **No exceptions** will be made to this rule.
6. The topic “The Cooperative Advantage”, should explain why the cooperative business model is preferable to other types of businesses.
7. Entries must **not** be given to RGEC employees or directors to turn in, or they will be immediately disqualified.

Information packets, including complete rules and entry forms are being distributed to school superintendents throughout RGEC’s territory this month. The materials are also available on the Co-op’s web site, [riogrande.coop](http://riogrande.coop), at any RGEC area office, or by calling 1-800-749-1509. A blind judging of all qualified entries will be conducted in May, and winners notified thereafter. The decision of the judges is final. Contestants are reminded that judges will be familiar with information about cooperatives which is available on the internet, and from various other sources. Plagiarism is cause for disqualification.

**Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Essay Contest Entry Form**



***PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT***

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School District \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name of parent or legal guardian who is a member of Rio Grande Electric Cooperative (RGEC) as it appears on your electric bill:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Rio Grande Electric Cooperative Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Telephone numbers where we may contact you: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Please tell us about yourself. This information will not be considered for purposes of judging the contest. It may be incorporated into a press release, should your entry be selected as the winner. Include hobbies, volunteer work, organizations, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Certifications:**

I certify the attached essay to be my own original work, and that I neither plagiarized another source, nor did I collaborate with any other person to compose this entry. I understand that my essay and/or photograph may be published in magazines and/or newspapers, as well as on Rio Grande Electric Cooperative's web site. I agree to abide by the decision of the judges in all matters pertaining to the contest and the awarding of prizes.

**Signature of student:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, member of RGEC, who is the parent/legal guardian of the student named above, hereby give my consent for him/her to participate in the Rio Grande Electric Cooperative Essay Contest. I understand that his/her essay and/or photograph may be published, and release Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc., its employees, management, and directors from any and all liability associated with participation in the essay contest.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of parent/legal guardian**, who is a bona fide member of Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc. **NOTE:**  
**Parent/Legal Guardian must be the authorized representative of the RGEC account.**