



Conducting Your 2008 Arthur Ashe Essay and Art Contest

*How to organize your NJTL
participants to take part in
the National Arthur Ashe
Essay and Art Contest*

Table of Contents

Introduction: What is the Arthur Ashe Essay and Art Contest?.....	3
Definitions of the NJTL Mission and Contest Vision.....	4
I- Explain the NJTL Mission and Contest Vision.....	5
II- Show the video.....	6
III- Give/Discuss Key Points.....	7
IV- Create an outline.....	8
V- Review the Contest Application.....	9
VI- Writing the essay	10
VII- Collecting & sending Submissions.....	11
VIII- Notification of winners.....	12
IX- Book List	13

Introduction

This handout is meant as an organizational tool for NJTL chapters and programs that wish to be part of the Arthur Ashe Essay and Art Contest.

Many NJTLs already participate in the Essay Contest, and have exciting and educational ways to get their children involved. But for those NJTLs that are not sure how to get started and/or interested in augmenting the educational component to their program, this handout gives some pointers and timeframes to help make it a fun experience for all.

Enclosed you will find some strategies for organizing the kids, a copy of the Contest application form, a timeline for when items need to be turned in, and a book list of related biographical information on Arthur Ashe. USTA/ NJTL encourages all NJTL chapters and programs to participate in this National contest by having one or more NJTL participants enter a submission.

All essays and artwork will be judged on skill and talent by the Sections and the USTA/ NJTL National subcommittee.

Our goal is to make youngsters around the country aware of the legacy of Arthur Ashe and his importance to the mission of NJTL.

NJTL Mission Statement

The National Junior Tennis League (NJTL) seeks to develop the character of young people through tennis and to emphasize the ideals of Arthur Ashe by:

- *Reaching out to those who may not otherwise have the opportunity to play the sport.*
- *Instilling in youngsters the values of leadership and academic excellence.*
- *Giving youngsters the opportunity to fully develop their tennis skills so they can derive a lifetime of enjoyment from the sport.*

Arthur Ashe Essay Contest Vision

Ashe was one of tennis' greatest ambassadors both on and off the court. In addition to winning 33 career titles, Ashe worked tirelessly to eliminate racism and poverty around the world.

Arthur Ashe lived an exemplary life, donating his time to underprivileged youngsters of all backgrounds and to growing the game of tennis.

USTA/NJTL honors his legacy through this annual contest by encouraging kids to learn, write, and explore why Arthur Ashe is a legend.

I. Explain the NJTL Mission and the Arthur Ashe Essay and Art Contest Vision

School/ Age Level	Tactic	Example
Elementary (Ages 6-10)	Keep it simple (2-3 sentences)	<i>NJTL uses tennis to show people the good things Arthur Ashe did in tennis and in his everyday life. The essay contest is a way for everyone in NJTL to show what they have learned about Arthur Ashe.</i>
Middle School (Ages 11-13)	Relate the NJTL mission to the Essay Contest vision	<i>By learning about how Arthur Ashe lived his life, kids in NJTL can learn how NJTL helps all children to be able to play tennis, become good sports and good citizens, and to be the best tennis players they can be.</i>
High School (Ages 14-18)	Discuss how the NJTL mission is related to the Essay Contest vision	<i>Relate Ashe's fight against racism and poverty to NJTL's goal of bringing tennis to those who would otherwise not have an opportunity to play.</i>

II. Show the video “Arthur Ashe: Citizen of the World”

The HBO Sports presentation, ***Arthur Ashe: Citizen of the World*** (available at the library or any video retailer) is approximately one hour long and shows Arthur Ashe’s life as both a tennis star and as a human rights advocate. The show is a documentary and includes tributes to Ashe from several of his friends and admirers. The video may be shown during an assembly, class, after school program or rain day, but it should be viewed by the youngsters **before** they write their essays.

In addition to the video, there is a list of books on Arthur Ashe on page 15 of this handout. The books are listed by age group and can be used along with or in place of the video for background on Arthur Ashe. The book(s) should be read by the youngsters **before** they write their essays.

III. Give / Discuss Key Points

You can discuss key points of Ashe's life to ensure everyone understands the meaning of the video or what they read in their book(s).

Here are a few examples of key points from the video:

- *Arthur Ashe was a great tennis player and a great man.*
- *Ashe was an ambassador of many things.*
- *Arthur Ashe fought against discrimination in tennis and throughout the world.*
- *Ashe used his celebrity as a tennis champion to call attention to racism, poverty, and AIDS awareness.*
- *Arthur Ashe cared a lot about helping children everywhere to use tennis as a way to improve their lives.*

IV. Create an Outline

This is the chance for Questions & Answers. Have the participants write down the key point(s), leaving space for specific examples. Discuss these key points as a group, listing examples from the video. Or if a book or books were read, the group can discuss specific examples from the book(s) for each key point.

Another option is to discuss the key points as a group, but allow each participant to list their own examples as homework. These outlines will be the basis of the essays that each person writes in their own words.

School Level	Key Points	Examples
Elementary (Ages 6-10)	Discuss 1 key point	Have the group list 1-2 specific examples from the video or book for each key point
Middle School (Ages 11-13)	Discuss 1-3 key points	Have the group list 1-3 specific examples from the video or book(s) for each key point
High School (Ages 14-18)	Discuss 3-5 key points	Allow the group to list as many examples as they can from the video or book(s) for each key point

V. Arthur Ashe Essay and Art Contest Application

You download a copy of the contest form at www.usta.com/njtl.

- Make sure everyone receives a copy of the application
- Explain the rules and prizes (include program and/or section prizes if applicable)
- Restate the NJTL mission and the Arthur Ashe Essay and Art Contest Vision, and answer any remaining questions about the contest rules.

VI. Writing the Essay

Option 1

Have the kids use the outlines they created to write their essays during program hours. Be sure to stress that the actual essay should be in their own words and must be **less than 300 words** long.

Option 2

Have the kids take the outline and the application form home and write their essays on their own time. Be sure to give a **specific** deadline for when the essays should be returned to you and allow enough time during the program to answer any additional questions that might come up.

Option 3

For those kids that are 12 and under, it is often easier for them to express themselves with pictures. New to 2008, the Contest is to accept artwork as a response to the question. Artwork must be 2-dimensional and no larger than poster board size (22"x28"). Submissions will not be returned.

V. Collecting & Sending the Essays

Timing

- Leave yourself enough time to
 - *Review the length* - **essays must be one written page or less than 300 words.**
 - *Verify the consent* - **the application information must be completed and signed by each participant's parent or legal guardian.** Incomplete applications will be disqualified and the accompanying essays will not be read.
 - Artwork must be 2-dimensional and no larger than poster board size (22"x28"). Submissions will not be returned.

Mailing to National

- Collect all of your program's essays and artwork and mail them together in one package to:
USTA/NJTL
Arthur Ashe Essay and Art Contest
70 West Red Oak Lane
White Plains, NY 10604
- **Essays are due at the National office no later than Tuesday, July 10th.** Late submissions will be disqualified.
- You should discuss any additional deadlines with your Section if you plan to do a program-wide or Section contest (best essay, most essays received from a program, most programs participating in a district, etc.) These contests should be held before the July 10th deadline so that you can make your selections before you mail the essays to National.

VIII. Notification of Winners: Timeline

June 30 th	Choose and award any program/district/Section contest winners.
July 1 st -July 8 th	Mail all essays to National office.
July 10 th	All essays must be received at National office. National tallies all essays and forwards them to their respective Sections.
July 16 th - July 25 th	Sections choose 10 Sectional winners to enter in National contest.
July 28 th - Aug. 1 st	National Subcommittee selects the 10 National winners to attend the AAEC all expense paid weekend in New York, NY.
Aug. 1 st – Aug. 4 th	Winners notified by Subcommittee Chair.
Aug. 4 th	Email will be sent to the 10 National winners' program leaders and Section staff.

Book List

Grade 1-5

- **Dexter, Robin** -- *Young Arthur Ashe: Brave Champion*
- **Moutoussamy-Ashe, Jeanne** -- *Daddy and me: a photo story of Arthur Ashe and his daughter, Camera*
- **Spence, Jim** -- *Arthur Ashe, Tennis Legend*
- **Quackenbush, Robert M.** -- *Arthur Ashe and His Match With History*

Grade 6-8

- **Collins, David R.** -- *Arthur Ashe: Against the Wind*
- **Moutoussamy-Ashe, Jeanne** -- *Good Works: the Arthur Ashe Legacy (The Arthur Ashe Foundation / Sports Illustrated publication)*

Grade 9-12

- **Kallen, Stuart A.** -- *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Dreams and Motion*
- **Ashe, Arthur** -- *Days of Grace: A Memoir*