

# It's Always Something Essay Contest

**An essay contest for high school students  
to share their stories about living with cancer.**

**Two  
\$1,000  
Prizes!**

Are you a cancer survivor?  
Have you helped a family member or friend deal with cancer?  
How did you learn to live with cancer?

A cancer diagnosis can unleash a storm of emotions, questions and unexpected discoveries, not just for the person with cancer, but for the whole family, and even their friends.

## **YOUR VOICE DESERVES TO BE HEARD**

We are looking for honest, detailed personal essays by young writers (11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade) who demonstrate an authentic ability to move readers by sharing their experience with cancer.

## **Tell your story.**

### **Celebrity Judges**

**Denise Hnytka**  
WQAD

**John Marx**  
Dispatch-Argus

**Paula Sands**  
Paula Sands Live

- Essay and completed contest entry form must be submitted by mail or e-mail, **postmarked by 2/01/2019**.
- Essay must be typed, double spaced and between 500 and 2000 words long.
- Essays will be read by a panel of celebrity judges.

### **For complete entry and contest details, visit:**

[www.gildasclubqc.org/teenessay](http://www.gildasclubqc.org/teenessay)

Additional questions, please contact:

Kelly Craft, Program Manager  
(563) 326-7504

[kcrafft@gildasclubqc.org](mailto:kcrafft@gildasclubqc.org)



### **About Gilda's Club Quad Cities**

The mission of Gilda's Club Quad Cities is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community.

Free of charge, Gilda's Club Quad Cities provides support, education and hope to all people affected by cancer. As a Cancer Support Community affiliate, we are part of the largest employer of psychosocial oncology mental health professionals in the United States. Our global network brings the highest quality cancer support to the millions of people touched by cancer.

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## Contest Guidelines:

### Ethics Statement

No purchase or obligation necessary. Essay submissions are evaluated in a fair and unbiased judging process.

### Eligibility

1. Students in the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades
2. This contest is available to students in the Gilda's Club Quad Cities service area

### Entry Rules:

1. Each student may submit only one essay
2. The essay must be the work of a single student and authored by the student
3. Essay length must fall within the following limits: 500 – 2000 words
4. Each essay must include the It's Always Something Teen Essay Contest entry form
5. Entries must be submitted by **2/01/2019**

### Awards:

Two \$1000 prizes.

### How will my entry be judged?

**Personal voice:** Judges will be looking for an interesting engaging essay told in your own words. The essay should describe your experience and an overall message about how your experience impacted your life.

**Clarity and Style:** Judges will look for a clear and consistent focus in your writing and a logical progression of ideas. Good grammar, accurate word choices and correction punctuation and sentence structure should be used.

## Contest Entry Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
High School \_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Essay \_\_\_\_\_

Winners will be notified by phone. All others will be notified by email.

Send your completed contest entry form and essay postmarked by February 1, 2019 to:



### It's Always Something Essay Contest

Gilda's Club Quad Cities  
1234 East River Drive  
Davenport, IA 52803  
[www.gildasclubqc.org](http://www.gildasclubqc.org)

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