

**IDRA Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program**  
**Congratulations to our 2010 Essay Contest Winners!**



*High School First Place*  
**KWAMÉ WEATHERALL**  
 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • LEE HIGH SCHOOL • HOUSTON, TEXAS

"Ever since I joined this program, my attitude has changed toward helping people who are in need or struggling... When I see a smile from my tutees, it gives me the sign that I am a great person as a role model and as a growing man."



*Middle School First Place*  
**WENDY RAMÍREZ**  
 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • DR. JAVIER SAENZ MIDDLE SCHOOL • LA JOYA TEXAS

"Before, I thought that staying in school was a waste of time... But all those thoughts changed since I entered this program. Now, I realize that staying in school is good for my future and for those who surround me... I believe that no one of these changes would have happened without the help that the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program has given me."



*High School Second Place*  
**ANDRE MERRITT**  
 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • FULLER PERFORMANCE LEARNING CENTER • FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

"I never met anyone younger than me that I could honestly say, 'He acts just like me. So every day I saw Lloyd, and I treated him the way I wanted to be treated when I was his age. He saw himself as a nobody, a failure, even a mistake. I made sure that by 9:10 a.m. he felt like a somebody, a winner and a blessing."



*Middle School Second Place*  
**PHYLICIA MOLETTE**  
 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

"When I look into the big, bold, bright and beautiful eyes of my tutee, I think of all the opportunities I gained from being a tutor. I no longer only look at the world from my perspective but also strive to look at it from everyone's perspective. Since I became a tutor, I understand younger children better, appreciate teachers more, and have become a wiser, mature, confident student and role model."



*High School Third Place*  
**KAYLA RUGG**  
 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • FULLER PERFORMANCE LEARNING CENTER • FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

"I have discovered that when my tutees see that I am doing well in school, they also strive to do well. This has been an extremely good motivator for me. I never dreamed that I could possibly make a 3.8 grade point average. Thanks to those young children, I am a much better person than ever. It makes me feel as though anything is possible."



*Middle School Third Place*  
**VALERIA ACEVEDO**  
 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE • ANN RICHARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL • LA JOYA, TEXAS

"I have answered back to my teacher, and my tutee has responded back to me. When they answer back to me it breaks my heart, so I've learned not to answer back to teachers. When I was in fifth grade, my life was worthless. Now I feel that I am worthy. I have gotten good grades."

Scan this code to see the full essays and learn more about the IDRA's Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program!



[www.idra.org](http://www.idra.org)