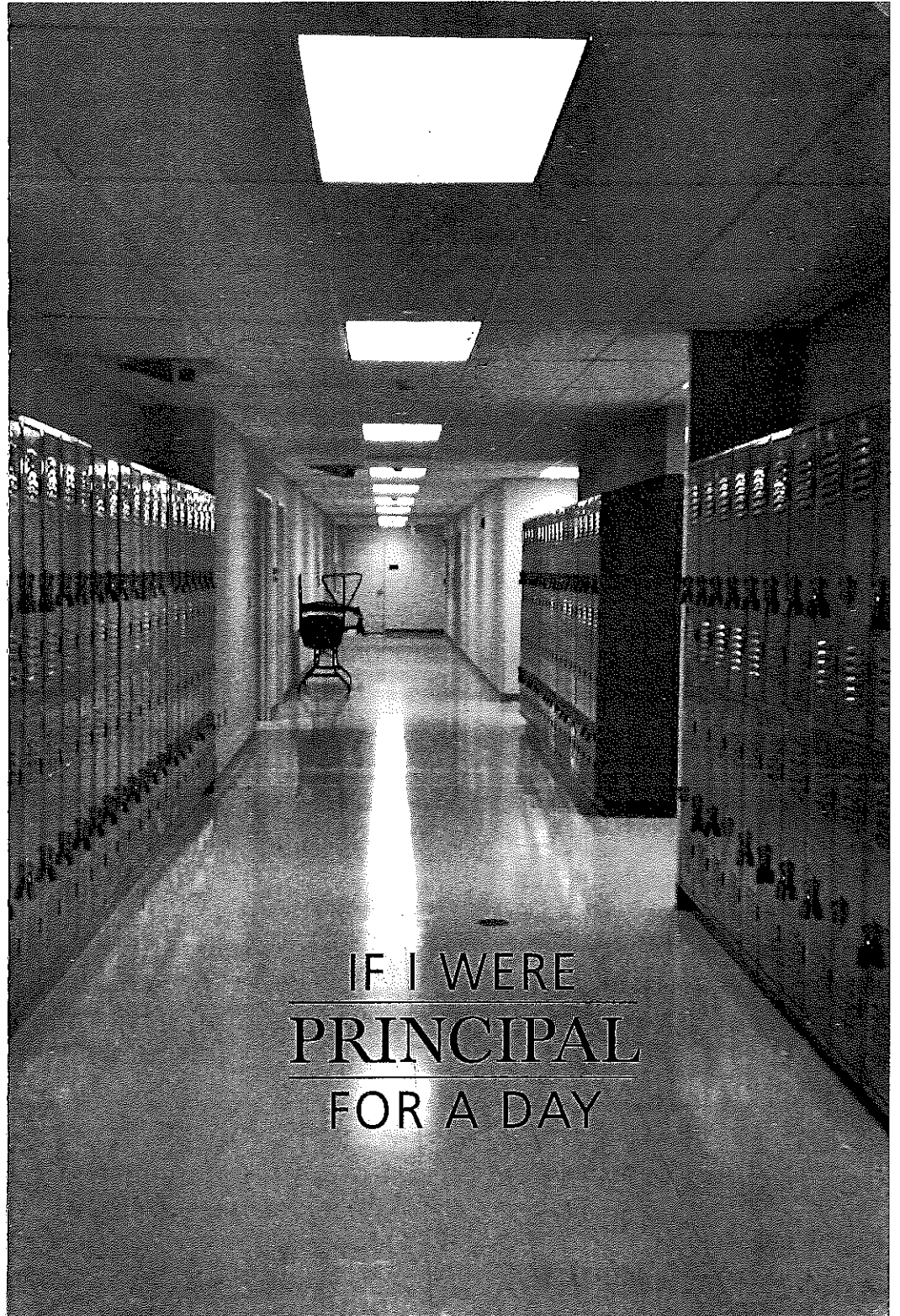


CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST 2015



IF I WERE  

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PRINCIPAL  

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FOR A DAY

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK *of* CLEVELAND

# If I were principal for a day

You rule your school! What would you do if you were principal for a day?

Imagine that you are principal for a day. What would you change as the head of your school? Would you set new goals for students? What big ideas would help you reach those goals?

How would you pay for your cool new school?

## The Challenge

If you were principal for a day, would you change the lunch menu or the food prices, or would the school day begin later and end earlier? Would you change the course requirements, hire new staff, or build a whole new high-tech building with a game room and widescreen TV?

This is your chance to choose. Write an essay, short story, poem, or play describing what you would do as the boss of your school.

As you craft your composition, think about the economic impact of the new rules or goals that you propose.

- What are the costs and benefits?
- Do the new rules respond to a demand?
- What are the opportunity costs?
- Do the new rules create any unintended consequences?

To answer these questions, you must think critically about some basic economic principles.

## Some Key Economic Concepts

**Benefits** are the social and financial positives that result from an economic activity, good, or service.

**Costs** are the expenses—such as time and money—necessary to obtain benefits.

**Demand** is how much of something people want.

**Inflation** is a general increase in the price of goods and services.

**Opportunity Cost** is the value of possible alternatives that a person gives up when making one choice instead of another; also known as a trade-off.

**Supply** is the total quantity of a good or service that is available for purchase at a given price.

**Unintended Consequences** are outcomes that are different from the expected ones.

## Judging and Eligibility

Federal Reserve staff will judge entries according to five criteria:

**Comprehension** Does the composition reflect a thorough understanding of the topic?

**Organization** Does the story follow a logical progression? Does the evidence support the composition's main points? Were diverse resources used?

**Conclusions** Do they follow logically from the argument? Are they persuasive?

**Creativity** Does the composition take a creative approach to the topic?

**Clarity** Are the student's ideas communicated clearly?

The contest is open to eleventh- and twelfth-grade students attending schools in the Fourth Federal Reserve District, which includes Ohio, western Pennsylvania, eastern Kentucky, and the northern panhandle of West Virginia.

Each entrant must be under the supervision and direction of a educator/advisor. Entries must be accompanied by the Student Entry Form and must be postmarked on or before March 2, 2015.

Compositions that do not conform to the rules and do not have a completed entry form will not be considered in the judging. See Submission Requirements.

For more information on the creative writing contest or to find out if your school is in the Fourth District, visit [www.clevelandfed.org/learning\\_center](http://www.clevelandfed.org/learning_center).

## THE PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each category:

- Essays
- Poems, plays, and short stories

1st place:

\$500 Cash Gift Card

2nd place:

\$250 Cash Gift Card

Runners-up:

\$100 Cash Gift Card

Winners also will receive a tour of the Fourth District Federal Reserve Bank office of their choice, Cleveland or Cincinnati (the Fed does not pay travel costs or the costs of accommodations), and a plaque engraved with their name for their school's trophy case.

All educators/advisors who sponsor at least one student will receive a gift bag from the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

# Student Entry Form

Submission Deadline: March 2, 2015

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

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School's address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

Educator/advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Educator/advisor's phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Educator/advisor's fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Educator/advisor's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Category:             Essay       Poem       Short Story       Play

## Student statement

I, the undersigned, certify that I am a student in good standing at the school named above.

The composition I have submitted to this contest represents my own research and writing and is original.

I hereby authorize the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland to edit, publish, disseminate, and otherwise use my composition, with authorship credit, in its publications or programs.

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's / Guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Educator/advisor's statement

I have read the enclosed composition and verify, to the best of my ability, that it reflects the above-named student's original work.

Educator/advisor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Submission Requirements

- Acceptable written compositions for this contest include essays, poems, plays, and short stories.
- No other types of compositions or media will be accepted.
- Each student may submit only one entry, which must represent his or her original research, writing, and thinking.
- One student must work independently on each entry; group entries will not be accepted.
- Electronic entries will be accepted.
- Student Entry Forms must be signed by the student, parent or guardian, and educator/advisor before being mailed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. Students who choose to mail their compositions to the Fed must submit two copies. Students also have the option of submitting their compositions by email.
- Students can scan and email their entry forms, but the form must be signed by the student, parent or guardian, and educator/advisor.
- All entries that do not have a completed Student Entry Form by March 2, 2015, will be disqualified.
- Subject matter may not contain profanity, derogatory terms, or violent language, ideas, or themes. Compositions with any such references will be disqualified.
- Written compositions must be at least one and no more than three typed pages, double-spaced, single-sided, in 12-point type with one-inch margins. (Page limit does not include title page and bibliography.)
- Compositions must include a title page containing the following information:
  - Title
  - Student's name (on title page only)
  - School's name, address, and telephone number
  - Educator/advisor's name and e-mail address
- References to primary and secondary sources must be clearly identified with the author, title, and date.
- Entries will not be returned to the authors, educators/advisors.
- Judging sheets will not be made available to students or educators/advisors. See Judging and Eligibility criteria.
- Employees of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and their immediate families are not eligible to enter the contest.

Mail entry form and two copies of your composition to:

**Creative Writing Contest 2015**  
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland  
PO Box 6387, Cleveland, OH 44101-1387

Or mail just your entry form, and email your composition  
to [learningcenter@clev.frb.org](mailto:learningcenter@clev.frb.org)

For more information, contact April McClellan-Copeland at 216.774.2756 or [april.mcclellan-copeland@clev.frb.org](mailto:april.mcclellan-copeland@clev.frb.org). Read the contest rules and guidelines and see examples of winning essays from previous years at [www.clevelandfed.org/learning\\_center](http://www.clevelandfed.org/learning_center).