



# Essay Contest About the Census: What's It Like?

The Hillsborough County Census Complete Count Committee invites students in Grades 6 - 8 to participate in an essay contest titled "About the Census: What's It Like?" *The answer is simple: It only takes 10 minutes to answer 10 questions!*

**Essay** Essay must be 150 - 200 words.

**Contest** Essays must be handwritten or typed, double-spaced and legible.

**Rules** Essays must include student's name, age, grade, school and title.

Essays must use the following words:

**CENSUS**                      **DEMOGRAPHICS**      **HOUSEHOLD**  
**PARTICIPATION**      **PRIVACY**                      **RELUCTANT**

Essays must be submitted by email to [mejiam@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:mejiam@hillsboroughcounty.org) by March 19, 2010.

**Essay** \$300 Savings Bond!

**Winner** Recognition plaque during ceremony (April 1)

**Receives** Census T-Shirt

For more information, call  
Hillsborough County at 813-307-8380



**Essay Contest winners will be notified March 25, 2010!**

# Count Us In



United States<sup>®</sup>  
**Census**  
**2010**



[www.hillsboroughcounty.org/census](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/census)

**What is the U.S. Census?** Every 10 years, the government reports the number of people who live in the United States by conducting a count called the census. The count is required by the U.S. Constitution.

**Why is the U.S. census count necessary?**

Census data are used to determine the number of representatives each state receives in the U.S. Congress, as well as Hillsborough County's representation in the state legislature. Government agencies use the data to make funding decisions for more than \$300 billion each year, including college grant and loan programs, road improvements, and public transportation.

**Who should be counted?** Everyone! All

babies, children and adults who live in a household should be counted, regardless of nationality, citizenship status, race, age or gender.

**Why are some people reluctant to be counted?**

The U.S. Census Bureau believes these are the most common deterrents to census participation: Privacy, confidentiality and immigration and citizenship concerns.

## Words to know and use in your essay!

**Census:**

An official count of a population

**Demographics:**

Statistical data of a population

**Household:**

A house and its occupants

**Participate:**

To take or have a part or share

**Privacy:**

The right to keep personal matters secret

**Reluctant:**

Unwilling