



Leto High School Marching & Jazz Band at the Hillsborough County Town 'N Country Commons Grand Opening in December 2008

# Essay Contest

## About the Census: Numbers Tell A Story

The Hillsborough County Census Complete Count Committee invites students in Grades 9 - 12 to participate in an essay contest titled "About the Census: Numbers Tell A Story."

- Essay** Essay must be 250 - 300 words.
- Contest** Essays must be typed and double-spaced.
- Rules** Essays must include your name, age, grade, school and title.  
Essays must use the following words:

**CENSUS**                      **APPORTIONMENT**                      **CONFIDENTIALITY**  
**PROJECTIONS**                      **REDISTRICTING**                      **UNDERCOUNT**

Essays must be submitted 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!**

We live in a representative democracy. If everyone is going to be represented and have a voice in government, we need to know how many people that "everyone" includes. The country's founders understood this, so they put it right into the Constitution! Article 1, Section 2 requires the government to count the number of people in the country every 10 years!

The data collected from this count will determine the number of representatives each state has in Congress, which affects the number of electors in presidential elections. And census data are used within each state to define congressional districts, which can impact congressional elections. These uses of census data are the foundation of our democracy.

### Words to know and use in your essay!

**Census:** An official count of a population

**Apportionment:** Process of allocating the number of seats that each state has in the House of Representatives

**Confidentiality:** Keeping personal information private and secret; not using an individual's personal information against them or for other purposes than those initially stated as the sole intent

**Projections:** Calculations of data for a future date. Two kinds of information are needed to create an accurate projection: past data and an estimated rate of growth or decline.

**Redistricting:** Process by which state legislators or officials draw the lines for congressional districts within a state.

**Undercount:** Difference between the number of people that the Census Bureau determines, in a post-census analysis, should have been counted.

# Count Us In



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



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