



Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey 2012 Student Video Podcast Contest

The contest opens for video uploading on January 3rd. The submission deadline is **February 2nd, 2012 or until the first 20 entries are received in each category, whichever comes first.**

All world language teachers of New Jersey are invited to get their students involved in celebrating, and communicating the value of learning languages in our lives. In a one-minute video podcast, student contestants will have the opportunity to demonstrate—through their performance in the target language—the impact that studying a language has had on their lives. Teachers who are FLENJ members can easily upload the video podcast to a private area of the FLENJ website (<http://flenj.org>) to enter their student(s) in the contest.



Contest Guidelines

Students enrolled in a world language class (a maximum of 2 students per podcast) can perform any target language activity in a video podcast a maximum of 1 minute long. English should **not** be used as a target language in the video.

Only one submission is allowed per nominating teacher. The nominating world language teacher must be a current member of FLENJ in good standing. To enter, submissions must be uploaded to a private area of the FLENJ website.

Entry Categories

- Category 1: Elementary School—Students enrolled in Pre-K through grade 5
- Category 2: Middle School—Students enrolled in grades 6-8
- Category 3: High School—Students enrolled in grades 9-12

Contest Theme: Children of Many Languages in NJ

Learning and using more than one language, whether at home, within the community or at school, is an essential skill for life in the 21st Century.

Examples of Activities

The examples below are not meant to be limiting; other types of activities will be accepted. However, contestants will be evaluated on the level of the language activity chosen (how challenging it is). Middle and High School students are discouraged from reading from texts.

Sample Activities for category 1, Pre-K through grade 5

- dramatize a story, or retell it in their own words
- recite a poem
- do a role play
- any of the activities listed for the other competition categories (below)

Sample Activities for categories 2 & 3, grades 6 -12

- discuss a story
- any type of demonstration
- justify your opinion, point of view on an issue
- role play, skit

Contest Deadline

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Prizes

One winner will be chosen for each category. The prize will be \$50 to the student creator of the video podcast (to be split if there are 2 students) and \$50 to the school, to be used by the nominating teacher for activities in the winner's class. The podcasts of the winners and up to two runners-up from each category will be showcased in an area of the FLENJ website that is open to the public. Only one winner from each category will be invited to receive prizes and award certificates at the FLENJ annual conference.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions that do not meet these guidelines will not be considered

1. Participation is limited to students attending public or private school who are enrolled in a Pre-K-12 world language class at the time of submission.
2. A maximum of 2 students can perform on one video podcast entry.
3. The nominating world language teacher must register for the student(s). Only one entry per teacher. The nominating teacher must be a current member of FLENJ in good standing. Be sure to download the Contest Entry Form from the FLENJ website. The Entry Form must be filled out and then uploaded online to the FLENJ website.
4. For students under 18 years old, the nominating teacher must mail in a Release Form signed by the student's parent or guardian. For students 18 or older, the nominating teacher must mail in a Release Form signed by the student. Be sure to download the appropriate release form from the FLENJ site. Mailing address for release forms: **Lucy Lee, Livingston High School, 30 Robert Harp Drive, Livingston, NJ 07039.**
5. The total video podcast length is not to exceed 1 minute in the target language(s). English is **not** a target language.
6. The video podcast must be viewable by all audiences, with a "G" rating.
7. At the beginning of the podcast (prior to the 1 minute presentation), students should recite the following text—**in English** as an introduction:

My name is _____ . I am _____ years old. I have been
First Name Only

studying _____ for _____ years. I am in the _____ grade at
language

_____ .
name of school

My teacher is _____ .
name of teacher

Video Podcast Specifications

- 1 minute maximum in length, not include the required short introduction in English.
- The podcast must begin with a recitation of the introduction in English given in #7 under the "Submission Guidelines" section.
- MP4, MPEG, MPG, MOV, or WMV format.
- **Please follow copyright laws:** be sure that you have permission to use any music, video, or animation that appears in your video. No commercial content is permitted.

Audience

The audience for these videos is the public at large; any world language can be used. Subtitles in English are encouraged but not required. All content should be appropriate for all ages (a "G" rating).

Judging Criteria

Video podcasts in all 3 categories will be judged on the following criteria:

1. **Content:** Is the language activity engaging and appropriate to the theme of the contest?
2. **Creativity:** Is the language activity shared, innovative, and creative?
3. **Execution:** Is the use of technology effective and appropriate?
4. **Effect:** Was the overall effect achieved in communicating to the audience?

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What role can the teacher play in helping students develop a podcast?*
 - **For elementary school teachers:** The expectation is that teachers of elementary school students will be the primary developer of the video and will organize it with the students doing the performing.
 - **For middle and high school teachers:** The teachers may assist their middle and high school students with generating ideas for the videos and with the technology, but the students should be primarily responsible for the writing of the video and for the performing.
2. *Can a video podcast entry involve the entire class or a group of students?*

The contest allows a maximum of 2 students collaborating per podcast.
3. *If two students perform in a winning podcast, how will the prize money be distributed?*

The prize money (\$50) will be split between the two students and an additional \$50 will be awarded to the school.
4. *I was thinking of using music in my submission which I have appropriate rights to use. Do I have to send proof of the rights for all images and music that I use? If so, can you explain the process of doing this?*

You do not need to show us the rights that you have. We will be asking you to verify that you have the rights before we declare your video podcast a finalist. Just be sure you have them on hand if the need arises.
5. *Is the submission supposed to be a narrative-type podcast or an interview-type? Or a combination of both?*

This is entirely up to you. We left this issue "wide open" to allow for the maximum creativity among participants. Please refer to the sample activities above for ideas.

6. *I study more than one language. Can I submit a podcast for each language that I am studying?*

Only one entry per student (not per language) is permitted. A student may talk about one or all of the languages being studied, but please keep the video entry to the 1-minute time limit.

7. *How will we know when a category closes or is close to closing? I am concerned that my students would be disappointed if, for instance, they find out that they can no longer submit their videos after they have put effort into them.*

We will post notices on the FLENJ website (<http://flenj.org>) indicating the number of slots remaining in each category. So, get those entries in as soon as you can!

8. *How do I know if I have the rights to use a certain music piece in the video and, if not, how can I get the rights?*

The only music that you can rightfully use would be your own original music that you created or if you purchased rights to the music. However, a low-cost way of incorporating music into the podcast would be to buy royalty-free music. There are many stock music sources on line. They may even have some free selections.

Technology Tips

If you have never created a video using a camcorder, or if you have never uploaded a video from a camcorder to your computer, here are some useful tips. The basic steps are:

1. Record your video using a digital camcorder.
2. Upload your video from your camcorder to your computer. This generally is done through a firewire port or a USB port. Your computer must have some type of video software installed in order for you to open the video file after it has been uploaded.
3. Save the video file on your computer in MP4, MPEG, MPG, MOV, or WMV format.
4. Video software allows you to edit your video after it has been uploaded to your computer. While editing is useful, it is not necessary as long as your podcast meets the submission length requirement (1 minute).
5. Upload your video podcast to the contest web site using the steps provided above.
6. We highly recommend that you ask family, friends, and/or colleagues for help. Chances are you will know someone who has a digital video camcorder and who has uploaded video to a computer. Once you have the video clip saved on your computer, you can upload it to the contest web site.
7. Because of the variety of digital camcorders (brands and models) and the numerous video software packages available for MACs and PCs, it is not possible to provide one simple set of directions for creating and uploading video from a camcorder to your computer. However, there is an abundance of useful information available on the Internet that may help you better understand the process.