To announce the 2016 Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest.

- The Department of Social Sciences is pleased to partner with Nova Southeastern University’s Abraham S. Fischler College of Education in the Cervantes Outstanding Student Essay Contest for Hispanic Heritage Month for 5th, 8th, and 11th grade students ONLY.
- Essays can be written in English or Spanish.
- Schools need to select a FIRST PLACE WINNER and only submit ONE ENTRY.
- Schools should email the typed FIRST PLACE WINNER to: Dr. Lourdes Rovira, Lrovira@nova.edu.
- Essays are due no later than Friday, September 30, 2016.
- Include in the essay’s header the student’s name, grade, teacher, school, and Region.
- Schools that submit more than one essay will be automatically disqualified.
- Essay topics are as follow:
  - Elementary School level: **5th Graders** (100-word **minimum** Maximum)
    - Topic: What I value about Hispanic culture.
  - Middle School level: **8th Graders** (250-word **minimum** Maximum)
    - Topic: Why Miami is considered the “Gateway of the Americas”
  - Senior High School level: **11th Graders** (500-word **minimum** Maximum)
    - Topic: As a young adult, how can you contribute to helping people in a multiethnic society understand commonalities that exist across cultural groups?
- Winners (from each grade level) will be presented with gift cards in the amounts of $100.00 for first place, $75.00 for second place, and $50.00 for third place.
- Winners will be presented these awards at the seventeenth annual “Cervantes Outstanding Educator Award Ceremony” event that will take place on Tuesday, October 25, 2016, at 5:30 PM at:
  - Hilton Miami Airport Hotel - 5101 Blue Lagoon Drive, Miami, Florida.
- Schools having a finalist will be notified of the committee’s selection no later than October 10, 2016. **PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY SCHOOLS WITH A FINALIST WILL BE NOTIFIED.**
- Honorees, their families and teachers, as well as the school’s administration are invited to attend the ceremony.
- Invitations will be sent to the winning student’s school. We request that the school notify the family of the students who will be honored at the Cervantes Award celebration and ensure the student’s presence at the event.
- **Questions regarding this essay should be addressed to Dr. Armando Rodriguez, Chairman, Hispanic Advisory Board, at (305) 905-6517 or to Dr. Rovira at 305-632-2100.**
- Please see attached guidelines and letter to principals for additional information.

Contact: Mr. Robert C. Brazofsky (305-995-1982)
Department: Department of Social Sciences