October 13, 2021

Hello teachers!

Do the languages we speak influence the way we see and interact with the world?

The Faculty of Arts Language Centre at the University of Manitoba would like to invite your students to participate in a contest for grade 9-12 Manitoba high school students entitled “THE POWER OF LANGUAGE.” We are curious to find out what students know about other cultures through language learning and if it changes their perception of their own culture. Their submissions should reflect on the benefits of multilingualism and should answer the question:

- How do languages shape people, cultures and the way we see things?

The contest is virtual, which gives the students a chance to be creative. Plus, new this year based on teacher requests, we are offering the option for students to enter the contest as individuals OR as an entire class.

So, please either encourage your students to enter the contest on their own OR bring your class together for a group project to enhance their language learning.

Students can submit a video (up to 60 seconds maximum for an individual, up to 5 minutes maximum for a class), a poster, a PowerPoint or multimedia presentation, a podcast or any other project of creative expression, featuring the benefits of language learning as listed above. Submissions are to be in English.

The top 3 individual entrants will receive prize packages of a selection of University of Manitoba branded merchandise (e.g. sweatshirts, drink bottles, backpacks, etc.) valued at $350, $250 and $100. The top 1 class entrant will receive a pizza party for their class along with a selection of University of Manitoba merchandise for all class members.

The deadline for contest entries is Monday, December 20, 2021, just before winter break, to give the students plenty of time to work on their submissions. The winners will be announced January 14, 2022. Our judging panel will consist of a variety of language teachers and tutors, including University students.

We hope that this contest offers students an opportunity to participate in a creative project that also helps to promote and encourage the life-long benefits of multilingualism.

We would appreciate it if you could tell your students about the contest and encourage them to participate.

Please note that the application package includes a release for parents and students to sign if they are submitting an individual entry, to allow the University of Manitoba to publicly announce the winners and use their submissions for promotional purposes. If you are submitting as a class project, you as the
teacher will complete the class application form and individual student and parent release are NOT required.

The Faculty of Arts offers courses in over 20 languages. It is the Language Centre’s mission to promote and support language learning at the University of Manitoba and in our community through our language laboratories, resource centre, teaching supports, promotion of travel study opportunities and cultural events.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you on this event. Last year, we received fantastic entries from high school students and we are really looking forward to seeing what the students will come up with this year. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

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