

# "It's Always Something" Teen Essay Contest

**An essay contest for high school students  
to share their stories about being impacted by cancer.**

## Contest Prizes

### 1st Place

iPod Touch & \$25 iTunes  
Gift Card

### 2nd Place

\$100 Foot Locker Gift Card

### 3rd Place

\$75 Target Gift Card

## Celebrity Judges

### Vanessa Williams

Actress

(joined by mother, Helen Williams)

### Darlene Rodriguez

Co-anchor of "Today in New York"

### Marissa Grumer

Senior Fashion Market Editor,  
Seventeen Magazine

### Phil Lipof

Anchor/Reporter, WABC-TV

### Kurt Loder

MTV News

Do you have a family member or friend living with cancer?

Are you a cancer survivor?

How did you learn to live with cancer?

A cancer diagnosis can unleash a storm of emotions, questions and unexpected discoveries, not just for the person living with cancer, but for the whole family, and even their friends.

## YOUR VOICE DESERVES TO BE HEARD

We are looking for honest, detailed personal essays by young writers (9th-12th grade) who demonstrate an authentic ability to move readers by sharing their experience with cancer.

## Tell your story.

- Essay and completed contest entry form must be submitted by mail, postmarked by April 1, 2010.
- Essay must be typed, double spaced and between 500 and 2000 words long.
- Finalist essays will be read by a panel of celebrity judges.
- A reception for all entrants will be held at Gilda's Club Westchester on May 3, 2010, 6:30pm

For complete entry and contest details contact:

Jen Scully, Children and Families Coordinator

Gilda's Club Westchester

[jscully@gildasclubwestchester.org](mailto:jscully@gildasclubwestchester.org)

914-644-8844

or visit our website: [www.gildasclubwestchester.org](http://www.gildasclubwestchester.org)

## The Gilda's Club Mission

Our Mission is to create welcoming communities of free support for everyone living with cancer - men, women, teens and children - along with their family and friends.

Our innovative program is an essential complement to medical care, providing networking and support groups, workshops, education and social activities.



Gilda's Club Westchester  
80 Maple Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601 · 914-644-8844 · [www.gildasclubwestchester.org](http://www.gildasclubwestchester.org)

Thank you to OSI Pharmaceuticals Foundation, Inc. for sponsoring the "It's Always Something" Teen Essay Contest



# "It's Always Something" Teen Essay Contest

## Contest Entry Form

### Contest Guidelines:

#### Ethics Statement

No purchase or obligation necessary. Essay submissions are evaluated in a fair and unbiased multi-round judging process.

#### Eligibility

1. Students in the 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th grades
2. This contest is available to students residing in the following counties: Westchester (NY), Rockland (NY), and Southern Fairfield (CT)

#### Entry Rules

1. Each student may submit only one essay
2. The essay must be the work of a single student and authored by the student
3. Essay length must fall within the following limits: 500-2000 words
4. Each essay must include the It's Always Something Teen Essay Contest Entry Form
5. Entries must be submitted by April 1, 2010

#### Awards

1st Place - iPod touch & \$25 iTunes gift card  
2nd Place - \$100 Foot Locker Gift Card  
3rd Place - \$75 Target Gift Card

#### How will my entry be judged?

*Personal voice:* Judges will be looking for an interesting and engaging essay told in your own words. The essay should describe your experience and an overall message about how your experience impacted your life.

*Clarity and style:* Judges will look for a clear and consistent focus in your writing and a logical progression of ideas. Good grammar, accurate word choices and correct punctuation and sentence structure should be used.

### Contest Entry Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Essay \_\_\_\_\_

If I win, notify me by: Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)



Send your completed contest entry form and essay postmarked by April 1, 2010 to:

"It's Always Something" Teen Essay Contest  
Gilda's Club Westchester  
80 Maple Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10601

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