

For Participants

2024 My Marianas Writing Contest theme: "Through Generations"

The tradition of "Ngingi" represents a cultural phenomenon with profound connections to similar customs found across Austronesian cultures, ranging from the Maori 'Hongi' in Aotearoa New Zealand to the Filipino "Mano po" gesture. Each of these greetings bears distinct customs specific to its origin. "Ngingi" has not only left its mark on those within the Marianas but also on individuals who have adopted the islands as their home. Such shared practices are cherished and emphasized for their resilience through generations.

Your essay should accomplish two main objectives: Firstly, adeptly employ imagery to vividly depict a value, practice, or tradition from your cultural background. Secondly, explain how this custom has been transmitted through generations within your family, and articulate your understanding or belief regarding its enduring significance amidst changing societal influences. Whether rooted in your ethnic heritage or reflecting a broader "Marianas" culture embraced by both natives and residents alike, explore the customs that define and unite the people of the Marianas.

Consider the following question prompts as guiding principles rather than mandatory inquiries: What practices have played a vital role in your family's heritage? What factors contribute to their endurance and significance within your heritage?

Feel free to speak on personal experiences and emphasize all aspects of your topic whether negative or positive. What memories does it invoke in you when reflecting on said practices? Authenticity and honesty demonstrate attention to detail to assist with the imagery of a narrative essay.

In what ways have the practices, customs, or values you've selected influenced your development? Reflect on their impact on your past experiences and consider how they continue to shape your present. Are these shared practices prevalent within your community or the broader Marianas Community? Do these traditions extend beyond your immediate family or relatives?

Tell your story with a personal touch, infusing it with your unique experiences and perspective. Avoid academic or detached language, and instead, share your narrative in a relatable and engaging manner, drawing from your personal journey and encounters.

We, at the Northern Humanities Council, along with an esteemed group of judges, eagerly anticipate reading your submissions and extend our best wishes for your success!