



# Grover Cleveland High School

June 2010

Dominick Scarola, Principal

## Good News

# Priscilla wins \$500 Scholarship

In her own words Priscilla describes how she won

By: Priscilla Flores

Winning the Random House Creative Writing Competition proved to be a challenge. Many times I wondered at all if I was capable of meeting the standards of this highly competitive event. I was competing against seniors from all New York City Public High Schools who entered their own memoirs, novels, and poems. The ones with exceptional work could win awards ranging from \$500 to \$10,000. For my entry I decided to do a memoir on an unforgettable moment in my life. Expressing myself was tough but I received a lot of help from others who reviewed my work, including Mr. Thorsen. I won a \$500 scholarship for my short story "Ecliptic" and even though I was hoping for more, I was proud to have made an imprint through a true experience of mine. I think its success, in part, had to do with me writing of something I was passionate about, something I truly believed should have been told to the world.



Priscilla Flores

Excerpt:

*Armed with a ream of the commission's flyers tucked under my left arm and two more neatly stacked upright in my pack, I stood gazing east to Lexington Avenue, my nostrils soon flaring with the smell of gasoline and car exhaust. The taxis appeared as a long yellow band of steel squeezing Grand Central Station, spasmodically recoiling, then advancing as the head taxi leaves the curb with a squeal once commuters popped into its back seat.*

*I was to receive a serendipitous \$100 for my efforts to pass out the commission's fact sheet to cab drivers urging them not to strike. My role, I realized later, was just one of the many tools employed in a public relations campaign to forestall an impending cab strike. And I, artful internet news gatherer, fleet texter, and Facebook doyenne was blithely ignorant that morning of this labor conflict's deeper issues.*

Click on this link to view all the competition winners:

[http://www.randomhouse.com/creativewriting/RHCW\\_2010Winners.pdf](http://www.randomhouse.com/creativewriting/RHCW_2010Winners.pdf)

Grover Cleveland High School Priscilla Flores \$500 – Memoir "Ecliptic"