Education Minister, Misir Mardanov, Deputy chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party, Ali Ahmedov, Chairman of Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation, Settar Mehdiyev took part in the opening ceremony of the contest.

Education Minister, Misir Mardanov noted the essay contest dedicated to the birthday anniversary of the national leader Heydar Aliyev has become a tradition. Having underlined the importance of interest and enthusiasm showing by pupils to the contest, the Minister, informed that nearly half a million pupils took part in the first stage of competition, and 97 of them have passed to the republican stage. According to the Minister, pupils from separate districts and cities, as well as Baku, lyceums and gymnasiums under Education Ministry and universities, private secondary schools and vocational lyceums participated in the contest.

Misir Mardanov informed that participants have been given tree hours to write the essay, and competition winners will identify after essays have been checked by the experts within a few days. He stressed that the contest will be finished on the eve of the 87th birthday of national leader Heydar Aliyev, and in the solemn ceremony in Gulustan Palace, which will be held on that occasion, prizes and presents will be handed over to the winners, as well as best work's collection will be published. At the end, the Minister wished good luck to the participants.

Afterwards, has been announced the theme of the republican stage and pupils began to write the essay on the theme of “Thinking of great leader Heydar Aliyev.”