



Scholarship Essay Contest

Topic: "Reaching your Dreams by Choosing Optimism"



CASH PRIZE

1st Place - \$125*

2nd Place - \$75

3rd Place - \$50

**Essays are reviewed and compared by grade-level. One student from each grade level will receive a cash prize (e.g., one 1st place high schooler and one 1st place middle/elementary school student). One overall winner will advance to the District contest to compete for a \$2,500 scholarship.*

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:

- Address essay topic
- Compose essay in 700-800 words
- Complete and address **ALL** application requirements (go to https://www.optimist.org/Forms/20-21_Essay_Application.pdf)
- Submit by **Friday, February 12, 2021** at 11:59 p.m. See Essay Questions and Answers for more details

Essay Questions and Answers

Q: What is the Optimist Essay Contest?

A: Every year, Optimist International sponsors an essay contest for the purpose of allowing students to express their perspective on worldly affairs. Local Optimist Clubs host the essay contest to further this initiative.

Q: Who is eligible to participate?

A: Any student under 19 years of age by October 1st, 2020 that has not completed secondary school or its equivalent, including CEGEP students in Québec, Canada. There are no grade-level restrictions or minimum age requirements.

Q: Where should I submit my essay?

A: Submissions for this year's essay will be collected electronically. Electronic versions can be sent to Calvert Optimist Club Essay Contest Organizer, Kimberly Imel, at kni5024@psu.edu. **Accommodations can be made for individuals that need to submit a physical copy. Contact Ms. Imel for more information.**

Q: I have more questions. Where should I go?

A: Contact Ms. Imel or visit <https://www.optimist.org/> for Official Rules and Contest Application.

