



MT PLEASANT OPTMIST CLUB
ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Essay Contest For Students- \$500.00 Scholarship Award
ALL ESSAYS DUE BY JANUARY 10, 2020

essays are accepted via mail or email

The Optimist Club of Mt. Pleasant is encouraging area students to contemplate the phrase “Is Optimism the Key to Achieving the Dreams you iMagine?” as part of the Optimist International Essay Contest for the 2019-2020 school year.

The Optimist Club will judge the local students’ essays, based on the theme of “Is Optimism the Key to Achieving the Dreams you iMagine?” and determine the top winner.

All essays are due by **JANUARY 10, 2020**. Judging will take place in the following weeks and winner will be notified by **FEBRUARY 7th, 2020**.

The first-place essay will receive a \$500.00 College Scholarship to the school of their choosing along with an award and medallion. Second place will receive a \$100.00 Scholarship, and Third place will receive a \$50.00 gas card.

The first-place essay will then be sent to the district level where college scholarships are available for top winners upwards of \$2,500.

“Young students today have so many fresh ideas about the world and their future. As Optimists, it is our goal to encourage them and do what we can to bring out the best in each of them. This gives them a wonderful opportunity to tap into their creativity and pursue possible scholarships at the same time.”

Students wishing to participate in the essay contest can find out more by reviewing the attached sheet or by contacting the club at the above phone number or email.

Optimist International is one of the world’s largest service club organization with 80,000 adult and youth members in 2,500 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, and throughout the world. Carrying the motto “Friend of Youth,” Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than six million young people each year.

To learn more about Optimist International, please call (314) 371-6000 or visit the organization’s website at www.optimist.org.

Thank you for participating in the Mt. Pleasant Optimists Club Essay Contest and we wish you the best of luck on your endeavors!

The Mt. Pleasant Optimist Club

Application for 2019-2020 Optimist International Essay Contest

Name _____ M F
 Address _____
 City _____
 State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____
 Telephone (____) _____
 E-mail _____ / _____ / _____
 Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Age _____

Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Essay Contest this school year? Yes No

Contestant Agreement:

I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all of the requirements.

Contestant's Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Please send application to address below:

Parent or Guardian Permission:

I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Relationship _____

I, _____ grant the Optimist Club/International my permission to use a picture or video of my son/daughter _____ for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo in any publication they see fit.

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name _____

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number _____

Language: English French

Official Topic: "Is Optimism the Key to Achieving The Dreams you Imagine?"

Each contestant must be given a copy of the rules and complete the entry form. The rules contain information about the contest, judging and awards.

Section I - General Rules

1. The Optimist International Essay contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club and District.

2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club, or an A-Large contest if a local club is not available. An A-Large student may not have competed in an Optimist International or District contest in the same year.

3. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others. Webster's dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretative literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.

4. All District-level competitions must have a minimum of 3 contestants participating.

5. Optimist International will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author.

Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to students under age 19 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International Contest year (October 1 - September 30) and is not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution. Students must enter in the District in which they reside. U.S. students attending school on military installations outside the U.S. are eligible to enter in their last home of record during any given year.

2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest.

3. No student who has previously won a District Optimist Essay contest scholarship will be

eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.

4. All contestants at each level of the contest must show proof of age before competing. Optimist Clubs may require a copy of birth certificate or passport before participating if offering a Club scholarship separate from Optimist International. District winners must provide a copy of birth certificate or passport with the District entry documentation.

Section III - Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official topic.

2. Each entry must begin with a title page containing: the official topic, number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, name of school and date of birth.

3. At the top of page 1 should be the official topic and the number of words (generally of 2 points for lack of topic and 5 points for failure to identify the total number of words correctly).

4. Essays must be typewritten and double-spaced. (Deduction of 5 points)

5. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title, bibliography or footnotes. Hyphenated words count as 1 word (Deduction of 5 points)

6. Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with page 1 of the essay, not the title page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.

7. Any quotations or copyrighted material used must be identified properly. For example, use of a specific writer's format (such as MLA) may be specified by the instructor overseeing the contest. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.

8. No references can be made in the essay that identifies the student, parents, school, community.

Section IV - Judging and Timing

1. Judging will be completed by a panel of three qualified judges. At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members, who are not acquainted with the contestants. At the District level, judges must be non-Optimists.

2. In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be assigned a number by the Essay Contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and page 1 of the essay. The title page will then be detached and retained by the Essay Contest Chair. The judges will be given the essay bearing only the assigned number.

3. Judges will not discuss or compare essays being judged.

4. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

Section VI - Penalties

1. Failure to list official topic: 2 points

2. Failure to accurately identify total number of words: 5 points

3. Failure to type essay and double-space: 5 points

4. Failure to stay within the 700-800 word limit: 5 points for each 25 words or fraction based on degree of identification.

5. Self-identification: 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification

Section VII - Awards

1. Club level - medalion

2. District level - plaque and a \$2,500 college scholarship for the first-place winner

A. Scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundation in the U.S. and Caribbean or the Canadian Children's Foundation in Canada. Scholarships awarded are for use at a college, university or trade school only.

B. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.

C. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.

D. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

Section V - Scoring

Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.

1. Material Organization - logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic: 30 points

2. Creativity - 10 points

3. Vocabulary and Style - phrasing and continuity: 30 points

3. Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: 20 points

4. Neatness: 5 points

5. Adherence to Contest Rules - prepared in the proper format: 5 points

For more information contact:

Contact Person: _____ **Brittany Getchell**
 Contact Address: _____ PO Box 125 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0125
 Contact Phone or Email: _____ mtoptimist@gmail.com