

## Ohio District of Optimist International Essay Contest

**Topic for the 2017-2018 School Year is:**

**“Can Society Function Without Respect?”**

**This contest requires students under 18 as of October 1, 2017 and who are educated in the United States, Canada or the Caribbean to compose a 700 to 800 word essay around a central idea. The contest is designed to develop writing and critical thinking skills. One scholarship of \$2,500 per District is awarded by Optimist International each year. Plus the Ohio District of Optimist International also awards a \$1,000.00 scholarship.**

For complete information on the Essay Contests, please go to [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org) – click Members – scroll the first column and click Scholarship Contests. Then click on Essay Contest. You will find valuable information on this contest, including a **Club Planning Guide**.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE:** Do not and I repeat **DO NOT** send a winning Essay to me that has been marked on by your club’s judges. If this happens, the entry will be returned to the club. You cannot expect the District judges to read and judge an entry that has markings on it from a previous judge. **This is not fair to the student or the District judges.**

**Date and address you need to submit your Essay:** **Deadline** to submit your winning essay, with all necessary paperwork, i.e. application form, copy of birth certificate, green card or passport, etc. **is February 28th, 2018.** This means that I must have it in my hands no later than **February 28, 2018.** Please send the Club winning Essay and the necessary paperwork thru the United States Postal Service mail, to **Sharon O’Neil, 233 Broken Fence Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256.**

**PLESAE NOTE:** The deadline listed in this letter is from Optimist International. If you need to change **your meeting date** to announce your winner, that is up to your club. We cannot change the date of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Once again, I must have all the necessary paperwork, i.e. application form, copy of birth certificate, green card or passport, etc. in my hands by **February 28th, 2018.**

If at all possible, please **DO NOT e-mail** your club’s winning Essay and the necessary paperwork to me. Last year, we allowed this, and some of paperwork was

not legible and some was missing. If you must e-mail your club's entry, it is your responsibility to make sure all information is legible.

**One more item, please read the rules carefully and you must follow these rules as set forth by Optimist International. These are listed on the Essay Application form.**

**Remember.....deadline to submit your Club's winning Essay is February 28, 2018.**

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Yours in the Spirit of Optimism,

Sharon M. O'Neil, 2017-2018 Ohio District Essay Chair

330-722-7071 or [oneil113@zoominternet.net](mailto:oneil113@zoominternet.net)

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