



Ohio District Optimist Essay Contest

Topic for the 2023-2024 School Year is:

“Optimism: How It Connects Us”

Purpose: This contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people room to develop their own views around a central idea. In addition to the opportunity for written expression, participants have the chance to win a college scholarship.

This contest is open to students under the age 19 as of October 1, 2023 of the current Optimist International year (October 1 - September 30) and who are not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution. The student, who is educated in the United States, Canada or the Caribbean must compose a 700–800-word essay around a central idea. US contestants attending school on a military installation outside the country are eligible to enter in their last US home of record. 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 scholarship.

Additional information on the Essay Contest can be found at www.optimist.org.

The deadline to submit your essay, with all necessary paperwork, i.e., application form, copy of birth certificate, green card or passport, etc. is **February 28, 2023**.

DUE DATE: February 28, 2024

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. Please make sure the rules are followed carefully. Cover sheets, page formatting, word count, citations, and neatness are all important. Penalties are assessed for failure to list the topic, failure to type or double space the essay, failure to stay within the word limit of 700-800 words and any form of self-identification.
2. A new requirement from OI is that essays be run through an AI detection program such as “Grammarly” or “Google Docs”. Students must sign a statement on the student application indicating they are aware of this requirement.
3. Key judging criteria include Material organization, Creativity, Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling and Neatness.
4. Be sure to complete the application carefully and ensure it has all the requested signatures.
5. The winner will be invited to read their essay at the Spring District Conference in Dublin, Ohio on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Yours in Optimism,

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