

East York Optimist Club

Talking Points for the Optimist Essay Contest:

1. The essay contest is open to all students under age 19 as of October 1, 2019
2. The topic this year is: "Is Optimism the Key to Achieving Dreams you iMagine?"
3. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words. (see rules for specifics)
4. All contestants and their parent/guardians must complete the application for 2019-2020 Optimist International Essay Contest and sign and date where designated.
5. Essay contest rules must be read thoroughly and followed. Section V and VI share the scoring of the contest and penalties.
6. The deadline for all entries to the school representative is January 6th. The school representative will then make three copies of each essay packet and the Optimist representative will pick up all essay packets between January 9th- January 10th.
7. Three judges will review the essays based on a rubric provided by Optimist International and will score accordingly. The essay chairperson will then tally all scores and determine the winners. Only the essay chairperson will know the results. Contestants may not review the scoring of the judges.
8. Our local club will award \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place, and \$125 for third place. All three winners are expected to attend an Optimist meeting and read their essays to the membership. The three winners will then be announced and the awards received. The date of the meeting will be Monday, February 3rd at 6 p.m. at Meadowhill Restaurant, 2935 E. Prospect Road, York, Pa. 17402.
9. The first place winner will then have their essay forwarded to the district contest. The district contest winner will receive a \$2500.00 scholarship. Additional information will be needed for the essay to be forwarded. The school will need to secure this information so that a completed packet may be forwarded. The Optimist essay chairperson and the Optimist school liaison will meet with the school representative and the winner to secure the signatures, contestant information and copy of birth certificate or passport.

10/2/19