

Optimist Club of York County

Talking Points for the Optimist Essay Contest:

1. The essay contest is open to all students under age 19 as of October 1, 2021
2. The topic this year is: “How Does an Optimist Mindset Change Tomorrow?”
3. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words. (see rules for specifics)
4. All contestants and their parent/guardian must complete the application for 2021-2022 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 December 3rd. The school representative will then make three copies of each essay packet and the Optimist representative will pick up all essay packets between December 8th and 9th.
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 luncheon and read their essays to the membership. The three winners will then be announced, and the awards received. The date of the luncheon will be Tuesday, January 18th at noon at Our Place, formerly 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. All three students will need to bring copies of their birth certificate or passport to the luncheon. Since the winner won't be announced until the luncheon, all three winners will need to bring the necessary item and then it will be returned to the second and third place winner. The winner will sign the necessary forms as well as give the Essay Chairperson a copy of birth certificate or passport.

09/30/21