

Rotary District 6490 Literacy and Education Committee
2024 High School Essay Writing Contest
For HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS
Rules and Guidelines

Please complete the enclosed REGISTRATION form for your essay and include it with your essay when you submit it.

Topics

1. What are the biggest concerns for high school students? Is it parents not parenting their children, guns, drugs, suicides, or something else that is causing so much violence in our world? Discuss what contributes to this behavior and how the family, school, or community should address this concern.
2. It is evident that climate change is happening. Recent fires, floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes are all impacting the earth. What should all of us around the world be doing to help offset what is happening?
3. Despite wars, sickness like the virus, and tragedies that are impacting our lives; what are you doing to make great high school memories that you will share at your 25th high school reunion?
4. Do you think there is equality in all sports when it comes to male and female, publicity, uniforms, facilities, etc? If you see inequalities explain what you see, cite examples, and how you would like to see inequality be corrected.
5. Have you met someone or read a book that has changed how you look at your life or even the world? How has either one influenced your thinking and behavior?

Format

The guidelines listed below must be adhered to in the essay. A large part of the score is based on the adherence of these guidelines. Unfortunately, in previous years, excellent essays have been graded down due to non-adherence to these guidelines. Do not be one of those.

- Use 8.5" by 11" paper
- Use 12-point font
- Double space your essay
- 1" margins on all sides of paper (top, bottom, and each side)
- Maximum length is 2 pages

- Type the number of your topic choice from the list above (#1, #2, #3, #4, or# 5) in the upper left-hand corner of the first page of your essay.
- Title your essay and include the title at the top center of your first page, include the topic number as well.
- Important --DO NOT include your name, local Rotary, address or your high school anywhere on the essay itself. That information will be on your registration form.

Judging and Entry Information

The judges are the members of the Rotary District 6490 Literacy and Education Committee. The judging is completely blind without bias. The criteria for judging are guided by the State of Illinois Rubric. Essays will be scored based on Focus, Originality, Development, and Conventions (adherence to grammar, spelling, punctuation, format rules, etc.)

Student winners are encouraged to receive their awards in person at the Rotary District Conference in the Fall. We also try to do is get the local Rotary Clubs involved in recognizing any students in their area.

Entry Requirements

Entries must be received no later than March 20, 2024.

Email entries to: Kris Graves at kes1477@gmail.com

Put "Rotary essay contest 6490" in the subject

Be sure to complete the [District 6490 Essay Contest Registration GOOGLE Form](#) in addition to emailing your essay.

First Place is \$500

Second Place is \$250

Each student and a guest will be recognized at the of the Fall District Conference: time and date to be announced.

ALL THE BEST AND GOOD LUCK!