



This is the theme of the 2019 – 2020
Optimist International Essay Contest:

**“Is Optimism the Key to Achieving the Dreams
you iMagine?”**

Interested students compose a 700 to 800 word essay on the theme and send to the Mansfield Noon Optimist Club. The essays will be judged at the Club level, District level and at the International level. Winners at the Club level will receive a medallion and monetary award, District & International levels all receive scholarships. The Ohio District Scholarship prize is \$3,500, International Scholarship is \$22,500!

Contest is open to students under age 19 as of
October 1, 2019.

For an APPLICATION see your school counselor or
contact the Mansfield Noon Optimist Club.

(mansfieldoptimistclub.com)

For additional information or application contact:

RICHARD HENSON, Essay Chairman

Mansfield Noon Optimist Club / 419-709-8009

DEADLINE – February 1st, 2020

Application for 2019-2020 Optimist International Essay Contest

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Name _____
Address _____
City _____

State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____
E-mail _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____
Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Essay Contest this school year? Yes No

Contestant's Signature _____ Date _____
DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 01, 2020

Topic: "Is Optimism the Key to Achieving The Dreams you Imagine?"

Each contestant must be given a copy of the rules and complete the entry form. The rules contain information about the contest, judging and awards.

Section I - General Rules

1. The Optimist International Essay contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club and District.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club, or an At-Large contest if a local club is not available. An At-Large student may not have competed in an Optimist International or District contest in the same year.
3. Contestants must complete an original essay with limited guidance from others. Webster's dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretive literary composition, works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.
4. All District-level competitions must have a minimum of 3 contestants participating.
5. Optimist International will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author.

Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to students under age 19 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International Contest year (October 1 - September 30) and is not entered as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution. Students must enter in the District in which they reside. U.S. students attending school on military installations outside the U.S. are eligible to enter in their host home of record.
2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest during any given year.
3. No student who has previously won a District Optimist Essay contest scholarship will be eligible to compete in any level of the competition again.

Section III - Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official topic.
2. Each entry must begin with a title page containing: the official topic, number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, name of school and date of birth.
3. At the top of page 1 should be the official topic and the number of words (penalty of 2 points for lack of topic and 5 points for failure to identify the total number of words correctly).
4. Essays must be typewritten and double-spaced. (Penalty of 5 points)
5. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title, bibliography or footnote. Hyphenated words count as 1 word (Penalty of 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit).
6. Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with page 1 of the essay, not the title page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.
7. Any quotations or copyrighted material used must be identified properly. For example, use of a specific writer's format (such as MLA) may be specified by the instructor overseeing the contest. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
8. No references can be made in the essay that identifies the student, parents, school, community, etc.

Section IV - Judging and Timing

1. Judging will be completed by a panel of three qualified judges. At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members, who are not acquainted with the contestants. At the District level, judges must be non-Optimists.
2. In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be assigned a number by the Essay Contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and page 1 of the essay. The title page will then be detached and retained by the Essay Contest Chair. The judges will be given the essay bearing only the assigned number.
3. Judges will not discuss or compare essays being judged.
4. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

Section V - Scoring

- Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.
1. Material Organization - logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic: 30 points
 2. Cohesivity - 10 points
 3. Vocabulary and Style - phrasing and continuity: 30 points
 3. Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: 20 points
 4. Neatness: 5 points
 5. Adherence to Contest Rules - prepared in the proper format: 5 points

Section VI - Penalties

1. Failure to list official topic: 2 points
2. Failure to accurately identify total number of words: 5 points
3. Failure to type essay and double-space: 5 points
4. Failure to stay within the 700-800 word limit: 5 points for each 25 words or fraction based on degree of identification.
5. Self-identification: 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification.

Section VII - Awards

1. Club level - medalion
2. District level - plaque and a \$2,500 college scholarship for the first-place winner
- A. Scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundation in the U.S. and Carleton or the Canadian Children's Foundation in Canada. Scholarships awarded are for the at a college, university or trade school only.
- B. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
- C. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
- D. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

For more information contact:

Contact Person: **RICHARD HENSON**
Contact Address: **861 TROUT DRIVE
MANSFIELD, OHIO 44903**
Contact Phone or Email: **rphenson1948@yahoo.com
419-709-8009 (Home)**

Parent or Guardian Permission: I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.

Signature _____ Date _____
Relationship _____
to use a picture or video of my son/daughter _____ for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo in any publication they see fit.

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name: **MANSFIELD NOON OPTIMIST CLUB**
Sponsoring Optimist Club Number: **24250**

Language: English French

*** PLEASE ATTACH COPY OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE ***