

# 2025/2026 Optimist International Essay Contest

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The essay encompasses a young person's personal experience and may be supported with evidence from the world at large. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants may also win a college scholarship! Scholarship amounts are \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000.



## This year's topic: How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me”

- Who Can Enter: Students who have not yet completed secondary school
- Where to Enter: locate a participating club near you, visit the Michigan District Optimists Website, <https://michiganoptimists.org/essay>
- Residence: Student must reside in the State of Michigan, lower peninsula
- Language: English only

The contest is comprised of two levels: A preliminary round, which is conducted by local Optimist clubs. The winner from each local club advances to the District level, where winners are awarded first, second, and third place.