



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

is pleased to announce its annual

International High School Essay Contest

As a mandated element of the Annual International Achievement Week Observance

Four College Scholarship Awards:

1st Scholarship: \$5,000; 2nd Scholarship: \$3,000; 3rd Scholarship: \$2,000; 4th Scholarship: \$1,000

Contest Closes: October 16, 2020

2020 Essay Title:

Learning about politics and life as a citizen is part of the transition to adulthood. During this stage, young people are introduced to political processes and issues, as well as, a range of political activities including voting and participation in social movements. "Against the backdrop of the global "Black Lives Matter" movement, why is it even more important for young people to become and remain politically engaged?"

Eligibility & Rules

The Contest is open to all college-bound, high school seniors who submit an essay application through a Chapter of the Fraternity.

The essay must be original and neither previously published nor secured by copyright. The essay must be between 700 and 750 words in length. **The type-written, double-spaced essay may be submitted via postal service or email in Microsoft Word.**

Submission Process

All submissions will be reviewed by your local Chapter (determined by your high school/home address). Submissions will not be accepted after **October 16, 2020**.

The following information for the contestant must appear on the first page in this manner:

Title: _____

An Essay By: _____ Home Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____ Name of High School: _____

Address of High School: _____

Student Email: _____ Phone# _____

Contest Name: Omega Psi Phi Fraternity International High School Essay Contest

Name of Sponsoring Chapter: Pi Omega Location of Chapter: Baltimore, MD

The manuscript must be postmarked, or time stamped on the email not later than midnight, October 16, 2020, **and sent to an Omega Psi Phi Chapter Sponsoring the Essay Contest.**

Essays are not to be sent to the Fraternity's Headquarters facility and will be considered ineligible.



Rating Criteria

All local Chapters will assemble a review panel to assess submitted essays based on the following criteria. Essays may earn a maximum rating of 100 points.

1. **Development of Topic/ Thesis:** (30 possible points)
Topic is well-developed (covers and develops major points, supplying enough information for understanding)
2. **Progression:** (20 possible points)
Composition progresses from beginning to end in a logical flow of information
3. **Readability:** (25 possible points)
Concise prose that sticks to the point and does not ramble (holds reader's attention)
4. **Grammar:** (15 possible points)
Agreement of subject and verb; proper tense; correct sentence construction; paragraphing, including transitional phrases linking same
5. **Spelling:** (5 possible points)
6. **Punctuation:** (5 possible points)

Additional Information

Persons submitting manuscripts thereby grant to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. the right to keep the manuscripts and to exercise full publishing rights to them. Awards will be announced on or about June 1, 2021, and the decision of the judges will be final. The manuscripts must present an adequate treatment of the essay topic. Winners may be required to furnish written proof that they were enrolled in their respective high school at the time the essay was submitted. Awards will be submitted to each winner, upon written verification from an institution of higher education that the individual has enrolled. Actual enrollment (not just acceptance) is required. Awards must be claimed within 18 months after the announcement date to be valid.

Local Chapter Contact

Local Chapter Name: Pi Omega Chapter
POC: Bro. John Berkley
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