



# Topic: How My Acts of Service Help me Understand What My Community Means to Me

**Submission Deadline: Monday, December 8, 2025**

## To All Students

Show off your writing talent with an entry into the 2025-2026 Optimist International Essay contest! Write and submit a 700-800 word essay on the topic above. The contest is open to all Clarkston students, including private school students, who are under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2025 and have not yet graduated high school. There is no minimum age.

Our local Club members read every essay and award prizes for first, second and third place (\$250, \$150 and \$100, respectively), funded by the Clarkston Area Optimist Club. These top three winners will be asked to attend a Clarkston Area Optimist Club breakfast to read their essay to the Club members and to receive their award. The first place Clarkston Club winner will advance to the District Level contest to compete for a college scholarship - \$2,500, \$1,500 or \$1,000 for the first, second and third place winners, respectively.

All participants will be offered the opportunity to make a video reading their essay. The videos may be shown on the Optimists' website, You Tube page or on Independence Township TV. This is optional and available to those participants who choose to be filmed.

Fill out an application - available on-line at <https://www.clarkstonoptimists.org/essay-contest> (or contact Optimist Member Linda Danek, 248-736-7850, [essaycontest@clarkstonoptimists.org](mailto:essaycontest@clarkstonoptimists.org)). The contest rules are included in the application.

We can't wait to read your essays. Thank you for participating.

## TIPS:

- Submit your essay by the deadline, Monday, December 8, 2025
- Include your Application
- Read all the rules on the Application and be sure to...
  - Include a Title Page - Rule #2
  - Include the official topic on Title Page and Page 1 - Rule #3
  - Number your pages - Rule #6
  - Include your name ONLY on the title sheet - Rule #8
- Ask questions! Text or email Mrs. Danek with questions about the contest. Ask a parent or teacher if you would like their thoughts on the content of your essay.
- Have fun. Writing is an opportunity to express your views and this year's topic is a good one to reflect on your impact on our Clarkston community.



**The Clarkston Area Optimist Club**  
[www.clarkstonoptimists.org/essay-contest](https://www.clarkstonoptimists.org/essay-contest)  
email: [essaycontest@clarkstonoptimists.org](mailto:essaycontest@clarkstonoptimists.org)