CLARKSTON AREA OPTIMIST CLUB - ESSAY CONTEST 2026-2027

Topic: Finding My Voice in a World Full of Noise

Submission Deadline: Friday, December 11, 2026

First Place $250 · Second Place $150 · Third Place $100

To All Students

Show off your writing talent with an entry into the 2026-2027 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 and home school students, who are under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2026 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 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 $2,500 college scholarship.

Complete an application - available on-line at https://www.clarkstonoptimists.org/essay-contest (or contact Essay Contest Chairperson Linda Danek, 248-736-7850, essaycontest@clarkstonoptimists.org). The contest rules are included in the application.

You will receive a confirmation email when we have received your essay. *Please text or call Mrs. Danek if you do not have confirmation by Friday, December 18, 2026!*

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

Tips:

- Submit your essay by the deadline, **Friday, December 11, 2026**
- 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 sure to inspire you to explore the unique role you have in the lives of all you touch.