

Essay Cover Sheet Instructions

Don't forget the all-important cover page when you assemble your essay for the Optimist Club of Fort Worth's Essay Contest. Optimist International has rules about placing a cover page in front of the essay because it is judged by a team which never knows the student's identity until judging is finished. Also, there is to be no personal identification in the body of the essay. The cover page is numbered along with the essay at the time of submission and is used to identify the winning essays at the end of the contest.

Optimist International Rule:

Each entry must begin with a cover page containing: the official topic, number of words (700 minimum to no more than 800), writer's name, phone number, name of school and date of birth.

How the Cover Sheet is to look...

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

Words (does not include title, footnotes, or bibliography)

Your Name

Your Residence Address

Your Email Address

Your Phone Number

Your School

Your Date of Birth

Please note the importance of submitting a complete application, signed by both you and one of your parents. Keep the original signed copy of the application as it may need to be submitted to our District if you are the winner of our club's competition. The PDF scanned copy of the application, cover page and essay must be provided in a single email due by 9PM on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Send to jnorm1000@hotmail.com.

The scholarship awards at our local club level are \$750 for the first place, \$500 for second place, and \$250 for third place. The first place winner will also be eligible for the District competition where a first place award of \$2500 will be

given by Optimist International.