

It doesn't have anything to do with intellect or enthusiasm. The writing we see in essay entries at the Optimist Club of Fort Worth comes from the hearts and minds of students with passion. Our students in north Texas are the game changers of the next generation.


Essays don't fail because of the quality of the writing. Students who put time and energy into writing for the OCFW Essay contest generally are conscientious and pay attention to the details of syntax and grammar.

The number one reason on the hit parade as to why essay entries fail is because of those pesky rules that relate to the essay application. You can download your personal copy of the application and essay contest rules here:

[http://w17.optimist.org/Forms/17-18\\_Essay\\_Application\\_Fillable.pdf](http://w17.optimist.org/Forms/17-18_Essay_Application_Fillable.pdf)

So here is what you do to keep your students' hard work from being lost in technical red tape. Please emphasize the importance of submitting a complete application, signed by both the student and parent.

# Sign and Date



Student's Signature Here

Parent's Signature Here

**Application for 2017-2018 Optimist International Essay Contest**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M F  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Essay Contest this school year?  Yes  No

Parent or Guardian Permission:  
I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
I, \_\_\_\_\_ grant the Optimist Club-International my permission to use a picture of my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club-International may use the photo in any publication they see fit.

Contestant Agreement:  
I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all of the requirements.  
Contestant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsoring Optimist Club Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send application to address below:

Submissions must include a completed application, a cover sheet, and the essay. All must be submitted by email in PDF format to [essaycontest@optimistclubfortworth.org](mailto:essaycontest@optimistclubfortworth.org). To keep each student's work product associated with the application, the student should return both the PDF-scanned application and a PDF copy of the written essay in a single email. There are no shortcuts. If you phone it in as a google doc, you are likely going to get a rejection notice for lack of an application and failure to submit in PDF format. The modern day concept of the 'electronic signature' will not suffice here, at least until Optimist International tells us otherwise. Please direct your students to save their applications with original signatures, as the OCFW local contest winner may need to present this if his or her work becomes eligible for next level district competition.

Do not sent google docs, Word docs, JPEGs, or other variations. Everything must be in PDF. There is a very good reason for this rule. It saves time for us at OCFW, and we are already woefully understaffed.

The deadline for essay submission has been set: February 7, 2018 at 5 p.m. This is a bright line for which there can be no extensions.



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