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Subject: Optimist International Essay Contest

Topic: **“The Internet: Today’s Evolution or Tomorrow’s Menace?”**

Length: 400-500 Words (Title and bibliography are not included in final count)

Optimist International Essay Contest is open to any student under the age of 19 as of the December 31, 2009/2010 school year.

The rewards are great. The District first place winner receives \$2,500 college scholarship, winner’s plaque and is entered into the Optimist International Essay Contest. The top three essays at International level are awarded scholarships as follows: first place - \$6,000; second place - \$3,750; and third place - \$2,250.

The following are the dates to remember in getting students to enter this contest. Please pass this information on to the clubs in your zone.

Club Essay Contest should be completed by mid February.

**Club winning entry MUST be received by the District Essay Chairperson, no later than February 28, 2010.**

District judging will start immediately after the above date in order to give the judges enough time to complete their tasks.

District winner’s essay will be sent for International judging no later than April 1, 2010

Complete essay rules and planning can be found on the Optimist International web site **www.optimist.org** and go to the following site pages in bold print

#### CLUB ESSAY PACKAGE

\* **members**

\* **programs**

\* **Planning Guides**

The program planning guides are helpful, step-by-step instruction manuals that assist Clubs with organizing and conducting the Optimist International Programs and include all necessary applications, guidelines and forms. Guides for the Community Activities contain suggested ideas for activities and events.

Essay

\* **2009-2010 Club Essay Planning Guide**

## ESSAY PLANNING GUIDES

\* **members**

\* **programs**

\* **Package Programs.**

Package Programs are a resource that has been developed to assist Clubs from beginning (planning) to the end (follow-up) of certain projects. The packages include suggested timelines, job descriptions and various forms and letters that would be used in the project.

Essay Contest (International Program)

The Optimist Essay contest is the 3rd most popular Optimist activity. It is open to students under the age of 19 as of December 31 of the current school year. Please see the program planning guide for the theme and contest rules. The project will take approximately 12 weeks to run from start to finish and will need at least 3-5 Club members working on it.

\* **Essay Contest Program Introduction**

\* **Essay Contest Job Responsibilities**

\* **Job Responsibilities by Position**

\* **Project Timeline**

\* **Essay Contest News Release - Prior to event (.doc)**

\* **Essay Contest News Release - Prior to event (.pdf)**

\* **Follow-up Letter to Parents**

\* **Sample Judges Thank You Letter**

\* **Essay Contest News Release - After event (.doc)**

\* **Essay Contest News Release - After event (.pdf)**

\* **Club Project Evaluation Form**

When submitting the winning essay to the District Essay Contest, be sure to include.

1. District Essay Contest Entry Form (this form **MUST** be completely filled out and **SIGNED** by the Contestant, Club President, and Club Essay Chair).
2. Copy of Birth Certificate of Contestant.
3. **Typed copy of Essay. Please photocopy the contestant's essay before judging at Club level. Send the original essay to the District level with no markings on it for District judging.**
4. Photocopy of contestant's Social Insurance Number

I would like to thank you in advance for taking part in this worth while program.

Joanne White

District Essay/Spelling Bee Chairperson