

**Rotary District 6490**  
**Literacy and Education Committee**  
**2020-2021 High School Essay Writing Contest**  
**\*\*\*Rules and Guidelines\*\*\***

**REGISTRATION OF YOUR ENTRY**

Please complete the enclosed REGISTRATION form for your essay and include it with your essay when you submit it.

**TOPICS**

Select one of the following topics:

1. What is your definition of a “well rounded life?” Explain how you plan to achieve it for yourself.
2. People impact our lives every day, often in profound life-changing ways. List such a person (use a fictional name) and explain how they changed your life.
3. During your high school years, was there an event at school that you will remember for years to come? Why was it so profound and how did it change you?
4. “Where there is no education, there is no freedom”. Please explain and give examples.
5. Gaelic proverb: “Say but a little but say it well.” How do we improve our public discourse? Cite examples and explain.
6. What are the long-term effects of the pandemic on literacy and education? Cite examples and explain.
7. What book have you read that has changed the trajectory of your life to date. **DO NOT GIVE A BOOK REPORT.** How did the book change YOU?

**FORMAT**

The guidelines listed below must be adhered to in the essay. A large part of the score is based on the adherence to these guidelines. Unfortunately, in previous years, excellent essays have been graded down due to non-adherence to these guidelines. Do not be one of those!

1. Use 8.5” by 11” paper
2. Use 12-point font
3. Double space your essay
4. 1” margins on all sides of paper (top, bottom, and each side)
5. Maximum length is 2 pages
6. Type the Number of your Topic Choice from list above (#1, #2, #3, etc.) in the upper left-hand corner of first page of your essay.
7. Title your essay and include the title at top center of the first page.
8. Do NOT include your name, local Rotary Club, address, or your high school name anywhere on the essay.

The judges are the members of the Rotary District 6490 Literacy and Education Committee. The judging is completely blind without bias. The criteria for judging are guided by the State of Illinois Writing Rubric. Essays will be scored based on Focus, Originality, Development, and Conventions (adherence to grammar, spelling, punctuation, format rules, etc.)

## **SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED ESSAY**

**Entries must be received no later than January 31, 2021.**

Send the completed essay along with the registration form to:

**Email: [mharrx@outlook.com](mailto:mharrx@outlook.com) (\*\*note, if you use email, be sure to include the registration form with the essay on separate pages or attachment) We must have BOTH.**

**Or by US Mail to: (you may fold essay and registration form together, and place in regular business envelope for mailing—no need to purchase special envelope) the address below.**

**Michael A Harris  
Rotary District 6490 Literacy and Education  
320 N. Chaucer Blvd.  
Monticello, Illinois 61856-2321**

**First place will receive \$500 and will be a guest of the District at the Spring Assembly in May 2021. Time, date, and place to be announced.**

**Second place will receive \$250**

# **All the best and good luck!**

**13 November 2020**

# Registration Form

**Rotary District 6490  
Literacy and Education Committee  
2020-2021 High School Essay Writing Contest**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Student Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of High School** \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic Number of Essay:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Essay:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete this form and submit with your essay. Do not put any of this personal information on the essay. If you submit by email, make sure it is with your essay, but separated.**

