



The Lincoln Lyceum

Summer Essay Contest Guidelines

“ . . . the noblest cause—that of establishing and maintaining civil and religious liberty.”

Greetings ACCS Member Schools!

We are pleased to announce our second annual summer Lincoln Lyceum essay contest, with cash honoraria both for entrants and for the winning essays! Rhetoric school students from ACCS member schools are eligible to submit essays. Last year was an excellent first run. To see the finalists, click here: <https://classicalchristian.org/lincoln-lyceum/>.

The contest began at The Wilberforce School in Princeton, New Jersey, in 2020. The topic changes each year and is intended to stimulate reflection, reading, thought, and debate on important topics. The contest is made possible through friends of The Wilberforce School who care deeply about future Christian leaders. Contest details and prizes are below.

Eligibility: Students entering 10th, 11th, and 12th grade. Recent high school graduates are not eligible.

Length: Maximum word count is 1,000.

Prizes: The first 25 students who submit a qualifying essay will receive \$25 for submitting the essay.

1. Honorarium for 1st place: \$2,500
2. Honorarium for 2nd place: \$1,500
3. Honorarium for 3rd place: \$1,000
4. Honorarium for 4th place: \$750
5. Honorarium for 5th place: \$500

Submission: When submitting an essay, indicate the name of your school's judge and their email address in the entry form. The school's name or city/state should be nowhere in the essay or file name.

Deadline: All essays must be submitted by 8 am on Wednesday, July 31st, using the entry form in the Member Resource Center. Submissions must be on time to be eligible. The essay must be attached in Microsoft Word, Google Document, or PDF format.

Final winners will be announced by August 19th.

Summer 2024 Essay Topics:

1. Discuss the impact of individual character in the broader community in Homer's *Iliad* or Shakespeare's *King Lear*. Essays incorporating the following personal interview questions will be favored: Ask a grandparent or one of their contemporaries to describe a situation in their life where an individual's character and decisions had a wide impact, for good or bad.
2. George Orwell's *1984*, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, and C.S. Lewis's *That Hideous Strength* all offer differing visions of how we may go wrong in the future. Which of these visions best portrays the dangers we presently face as a society? Why?

**Note: The essay must be of a quality consistent with ACCS writing standards. (See grading rubric.)*

Essays will be judged anonymously (the school's name will not be on the essay when it is graded) and will be screened for plagiarism and AI.

Judging:

As customary, ACCS schools submitting a student's essay MUST also provide a qualified judge to participate in a preliminary judging round. Individual judges in this round will only need to rank a small number of the submissions. Judges will have one week after the submission deadline to complete the initial round of judging. They should expect an email on August 2nd with instructions for judging, and must submit their rankings no later than August 9th. *If a judge does not submit their rankings by the deadline we will disqualify their student's entry.*

For the final round of judging, ACCS will provide three judges who will rank each finalist and submit their rankings and written comments by August 15th, 2024. The ACCS Contest Manager will review the judges' rankings and comments, checking for consistency and faithful application of published standards.