

SENIOR ESSAY CONTEST



Our Senior Essay Contest was established in 1966 to provide our graduating students an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion on current events. Each year our Education Committee spends a great deal of time perusing topics to choose one they believe will challenge our seniors to think about the impacts of culture on our everyday lives. By engaging in this writing exercise, we hope that students will demonstrate their proficiency in expressing observations, thoughts, and conclusions logically and professionally. Our local lodges are dedicated to honoring graduating seniors and engaging with the local community while steadfastly engaging their commitment to education.

Local 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in the Men's and Women's Division will receive a certificate.

1st Place: \$2000 2nd Place: \$1500 3rd Place: \$1000 4th Place: \$750 5th Place: \$500
6th Place: \$400 7th Place: \$350 8th Place: \$300 9th Place: \$250 10th Place: \$200

Each statewide 1st place winner's school will receive \$5000.

The 2020 Senior Essay contest topic is:

The First Amendment provides, in part, that "Congress shall make no law....abridging the freedom of speech." When the First Amendment was ratified, the ease of access to the Internet and the ability to communicate quickly to millions of people through the Internet could not have been contemplated. While the Internet can empower positive speech and communications for safety and good purposes such as fundraising, weather alerts, scientific discovery, etc., the Internet can also empower negative speech for evil purposes leading to dangerous results such as bullying, hate speech, and terrorism. Should the First Amendment be changed to address speech in the Internet Age? If so, how should it be changed, and why? If not, please explain.

Requirements:

- Any Oklahoma public school senior is eligible and may submit one entry.
- Essays must be submitted online at www.MCFOK.org in .doc, .jpeg, .pdf or google doc. No other forms will be accepted.
- The deadline for submission is October 31, 2020
- Essays must be the student's original work.
- The essay must be 1000-1250 words typed, double spaces, using Times New Roman, font size 12. Essays that don't meet the 1000-1250 word count will be disqualified.
- A bibliography page listing all referenced sources in an accepted format is required. The word count does not include the bibliography.
- Essays will be professionally judged based on adherence to the assigned topic, organization of material, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, and neatness.
- Entries become the property of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma and will not be returned.

