

Essay Requirement – Overview

Requirement

- All contestants are **required to write an essay**.
 - The essay counts for **50% of the initial score**.
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Essay Day Details

- Essays will be written **after school** and submitted through **Canvas**.
 - On Essay Day, contestants will receive:
 - The **prompt**
 - A **rubric**
 - A **guided outline**
 - Time given: **1.5 hours**
 - **Talk-to-text is allowed**
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Accommodations

- If additional accommodations are needed, please contact us **at least one week in advance**.
 - **Essay Day: January 27, 2027**
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Scoring Process

- Essays are judged by a **teacher or professor outside of our school system**.
 - Judges will **only see contestant numbers** (no names).
 - Essays are graded using the **provided rubric**.
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Best Essay Award

- The **Best Essay winner is chosen by the judge**.
- It is **not always the highest-scoring essay**.
- Judges look for an essay that is:
 - Well-written
 - Engaging
 - Captivating

✓ Even if there are minor grammar or mechanical errors, a strong and meaningful essay can still win.