



January 7, 2009

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers, Friends of Youth

This year the Breakfast Optimist Club of Lawrence, Kansas is again sponsoring an ESSAY CONTEST. This contest is open to all students under the age of 19 as of December 31st 2008. The topic of this year's essay contest is, "**The Power of Youth**" <http://www.optimist.org/default.cfm?content=Members/mbrcdpa5.htm>.

The winner of the Essay Contest at the **local club level** will receive a medallion, a prize of \$50.00 and will advance to compete at the **District level** where the winner will receive a \$650.00 college scholarship and the opportunity to compete at the International level. Prizes for the top three finishers in the international competition are scholarships ranging from \$2250.00 up to \$6000.00.

Official rules and application forms are included with this letter. They can also be downloaded from http://www.optimist.org/Forms/ESSAY_RULES_PAD-E_08.pdf ... Participants should pay very close attention to the guidelines for the Essay regarding number of words, title page and spacing as there are significant deductions for violations of the guidelines.

This is a wonderful opportunity for young people to think through an important question and gain experience in expressing themselves in print. Please share this information with anyone who might be interested in competing in this year's Essay Contest.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email your local contact person at the phone number and email address listed below. Our official deadline for submitting your essay entry is Friday - January 23, 2009 ...

A Friend of Youth ...

Gary W. Teske, Essay Contest Chair
Lawrence Breakfast Optimist Club
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Please submit all essays entries by
*** **January 23, 2009** ***

Deliver to: Gary Teske
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