

EXCEL IN THE ESTRIE! Essay Contest



Each year **Make Way For YOUTH**, a project from **Townshippers' Association** that supports youth retention, hosts an essay contest asking high school seniors, like you, to share stories about how you have excelled in school and the region. The **Excel in the Estrie!** contest is launched each year with the regional Hooked on School Week. Judging and winners are announced in late spring.

We want your stories, or plans, about steps you have taken or are taking to overcome obstacles. We also want to know where you see yourself living and working in five years from now.

SHARE YOUR STORIES! INSPIRE OTHERS!

TO ENTER:

Graduation is right around the corner! Congratulations! Now think about all the things you've experienced to get to this point. We want to hear about the challenges – academic, social or personal - you experienced on your path to educational success and what you did to get through it.

Share what you are comfortable sharing. Past essays have share successes in transitioning into a new school, standing up to bullying, and dealing with a learning disability or tackling a particularly tricky subject.

We really want to hear from you and learn about your story, but if you don't have any personal experiences you want to share, you can identify a challenge facing others and come up with suggestions to overcome it.

You are an important part of our community, so at the end of your essay, imagine yourself five years from now, living and working in the Townships, and tell us what that looks like.

Submit your essay by **April 29, 2016 at 4:00 pm**. We want to hear from you!

Be sure to read the full Rules and Requirements below
(or download in PDF from Townshippers.org)

YOU MAY ENTER ONE OF TWO WAYS:

Submit your essay via the [Online Submission Form](#) (preferred)

- OR -

Download and complete the entry form and essay then send to:

Townshippers' Association,
Excel in the Estrie! Essay Contest
100-257 Queen,
Sherbrooke, QC J1M 1K7

Entries may be submitted digitally to:
mwfy@townshippers.org or submitted by fax to **819-566-0271**

GUIDELINES:

All essays must be original work, with a minimum of 500 words, and must identify one or more obstacles as well as solutions to overcome them (whether they were planned or applied) which occurred while attending school or within your community.

If you don't have a personal experience to draw from, feel free to identify an obstacle you have noticed others struggling with and propose a solution that may help others.

Essays must end with a plan for where you see yourself living and working in the next five years.

Each essay must be submitted, in English, with a completed entry form. If submitted by hand, essays must be legible.

JUDGING:

Submissions will be judged by a group of volunteers. Finalists will be judged on the following criteria:

- Creativity and originality
- Effectiveness in communicating ideas and meeting the essay requirements (identify an academic, social or personal challenge related to completing school and your solution);
- The inclusion of your vision of what like you would like to have in the Townships in five years from now.

PRIZES:

Three prizes of \$250 will awarded to winning essays.

In addition to receiving cash prize(s), all winning entries will be published in Townshippers' Association's bi-annual magazine. Material may also be used, in whole or in part, in other material produced by the association.

Winner(s) will be notified in in mid-May and will be invited to accept their award at Townshippers' Association's annual general meeting in June.

ELIGIBILITY, RULES & REQUIREMENTS:

This essay challenge is open to all secondary students (public, private or homeschool) in the historical Eastern Townships region's English-speaking community, who also meet the following criteria:

Attend a primarily English language secondary school in the historical Eastern Townships or if homeschooled, their education was predominantly English.

Graduating in the 2015/2016 school year;

Accepted to a post-secondary institution (college/ CÉGEP, vocational or technical training) in the Estrie. Please note winners will be required to provide proof of acceptance before claiming their award.

DISCLAIMER & RELEASE:

When submitting an essay entry you are agreeing that the essay is your original work. All entries become the property of Townshippers' Association and will not be returned. While you retain the copyright to your work, you grant Townshippers' Association and/or Make Way For YOUTH permission to publish all or part of the submitted essay and to use the entrant's name and photograph to publicize the winning entries, all without royalty or other consideration. You grant the association permissions to publish, reproduce, distribute, transmit, display, store, translate, create derivative works from and otherwise use your essay entry.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jenny Ménard, Make Way for YOUTH Migration Agent,
mwfy@townshippers.org
819-566-5717 (toll-free: 1-866-566-5717),
www.townshippers.org (under the YOUTH section)

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