

EXCEL IN THE ESTRIE! Essay Challenge

Townshippers.org/Essay



Info/rules:

Congratulations high school seniors, graduation is right around the corner! Now, think about all the challenges – academic, social or personal - you experienced to get to this point and share it for a chance to be published, win \$500 and inspire others!

Since 2012, the **Excel in the Estrie!** essay challenge has celebrated the success of high school seniors and helped them to think proactively about their future in the Estrie region. Offered by **Make Way For YOUTH Estrie**, a project from **Townshippers' Association**, the challenge was originally launched alongside the regional Hooked on School Week activities to celebrate school perseverance. Judging and winners are announced in late spring.

We want to hear your stories about overcoming obstacles on your path to educational success and want to know how you see yourself, in the future, living and working in the Townships. So, enter today and share your story!

Submit your essay by **Friday, April 20, 2018, at 5:00 pm.**

Two ways to enter:

- 1) Submit your essay for one of the two categories (either written or video) via the [Online Submission Form at www.Townshippers.org/Essay](http://www.Townshippers.org/Essay) (preferred)
- 2) Send this completed entry form and essay to **mwfy@townshippers.org** or mail/deliver to:

Excel in the Estrie! c/o Townshippers' Association
100-257 Queen,
Sherbrooke, QC J1M 1K7

Be sure to read the information on the following pages before entering!

Info/ Contact:

Holly McMillan, Make Way for YOUTH
Migration Agent
mwfy@townshippers.org
819-566-5717 (toll-free: 1-866-566-5717)

Many thanks our essay partners:



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ENTRY & GUIDELINES: All essays must be original work, submitted in English with a completed entry form. If submitted by hand, essays must be legible. You can enter one of two categories - written or video. Only one entry per person is permitted.

Essays don't have to be serious, you can be creative! But whichever category you choose (written/video) the **two parts** of this challenge must both be included in your essay:

PART 1) 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. We really want to hear from you and learn about your story, but if you don't have any personal experiences to share, you can identify a challenge you have noticed others struggling with and come up with suggestions to overcome it. Don't have a challenge? You can tell us about your school experiences (good or bad) and what could have made it even better, or things you observed that would have made school easier for others.

PART 2) tell us what you imagine your future looks like in the Townships. Since you are an important part of our community, your essay should also tell us how you imagine yourself five years from now.

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

Written essays must be minimum of 500 words to a maximum of 600 words, submitted as a Word file in 11 or 12-point font Times New Roman or an equivalent font.

Video essays must not exceed three minutes in length. They can be shot on any equipment (cell phone cameras included) but must be shot using landscape/horizontal orientation. Files can be sent through email, the online form at Townshippers.org/Essay, through google drive or by uploading to YouTube and sending a private link with your entry.

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

- a) Attend a primarily English language secondary school in the historical Eastern Townships or if homeschooled, their education was predominantly English.
- b) Graduating in the current school year;
- c) 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 application before claiming their award.]*

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JUDGING:

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

- Creativity and originality
- Effectiveness in communicating ideas and meeting the essay requirements – (part 1) identify an academic, social or personal challenge and your solution; (part 2) your vision of what your life in the Townships will look like five years from now.

Awards:

If your essay is selected, you could win up to \$500 to help with the cost of your post secondary studies.

In addition to the scholarship, all winning entries will be published and shared in Townshippers' Association's in-house magazine. Essay(s) may also be used, in whole or in part, in other material produced by the association.

Winner(s) will be notified in May and will be invited to accept their award at a future Townshippers' Association event. Details to be announced at Townshippers.org

CONSENT AGREEMENT:

This portion must be signed and submitted with your entry.

By signing below, I acknowledge, agree and certify that:

- I have read, understand and agree to follow the rules governing the "Excel in the Estrie" essay challenge;
- this essay is my original work;
- all entries become the property of Townshippers' Association and will not be returned;
- I retain the copyright to my work, and I grant Townshippers' Association and/or Make Way For YOUTH Estrie permission to publish all or part of the submitted essay and to use my name and photograph to publicize the winning entries, all without royalty or other consideration.
- I grant the association permissions to publish, reproduce, edit, and/or modify, distribute, transmit, display, store, translate, create derivative works from and otherwise use my essay entry.
- my entry will become the property of Townshippers' and MWFY once it is submitted and will not be returned.

Student Signature

Date

If under 18 years old: Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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Entry Form

Essay entries can be completed online at www.Townshippers.org/Essay or by using this form. If completed by hand, please print clearly. Completed entries can be submitted by e-mail to mwfy@townshippers.org (with Excel in the Estrie! in the subject line), mailed or delivered to:

Excel in the Estrie! c/o Townshippers' Association, 100-257 Queen, Sherbrooke, QC J1M 1K7.

For more information please contact the Make Way for YOUTH Migration Agent at mwfy@townshippers.org or call 819-566-5717 (toll-free: 1-866-566-5717).

Excel in the Estrie; About Yourself

Full Name

Age

Address

City/Town

Postal Code

E-mail

Daytime phone number

Mother tongue:

- French
- English
- Other; specify _____

Language spoken at home:

- French
- English
- Other; specify _____

High school you attend:

- Alexander Galt Regional High School
- Massey-Vanier High School
- Richmond Regional High School
- Bishop's College School
- Stanstead College
- Home school
- Other (explain): _____

Have you received your letter(s) of acceptance(s) to a post-secondary institution? Yes Not yet
Please note winners will be required to provide proof of application before claiming their award.

- If yes, from which school(s) did you receive a letter of acceptance?

Name of a parent or legal guardian

Provide two ways to contact your parent or guardian (email, daytime telephone, etc.)

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Excel in the Estrie; Essay

Explain why/how you believe you have and will Excel in the Estrie! using a video essay under three minutes in length, or a written essay of 500 to 600 words. Remember, there are two parts to this challenge, and both must be included in your essay:

Part 1) Identify any obstacles you faced in high school - academic, social or personal -and how you overcame them, or identify an obstacle you noticed others struggling with and propose a solution that may help. Don't have a challenge? You can tell us about your school experiences (good or bad) and what could have made it even better, or things you observed that would have made school easier for others.

Part 2) tell us about your future; where are you continuing your studies, what will you be taking and how do you see yourself in that career field, five years from now, living and working in the Townships?

Remember, winning entries will be published/shared. Good luck!