



# Office of the Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome

## Student Essay Contest 2020

### Official Rules

#### Essay Topic: What Should High School Education Look Like in a COVID-19 Culture?

#### Purpose

This contest is sponsored by Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome to give young people an opportunity to develop their own views around a central idea facing our community today. In addition to the opportunity for educational initiative and written expression, participants have the chance to win a financial award!

#### How to Enter

Interested students should submit essays on the assigned topic to the Mayor's Office. Select community leaders will judge the essays at the City Parish level. All submissions will be run through a plagiarism checker before being forwarded to the judges.

#### Eligibility Criteria

The contest is open to graduating seniors – Class of 2020 who are under the age of 19 as of June 1<sup>st</sup> of the current contest year and are not enrolled as a degree-seeking student of a post-secondary institution. Students must reside in East Baton Rouge Parish and attend high school within the Parish at the time of entry.

Contestants must compose an original essay with no guidance from others. Webster's Dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretive literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.

#### Terms of Participation:

1. Only one submission is allowed per participant
2. All entries will be checked for plagiarism. Plagiarized essays will be rejected and the participant will be banned from participating in any future competition as well.
3. The decision of the judges will be final and binding.
4. Mayor-President Broome/City of Baton Rouge reserves the right to use all the submitted entries for

whatsoever purpose they deem fit.

5. Language for the essays will be English only.
6. Individual students should be the only author of their essay. Co-authorship is not allowed.
7. Formats accepted are .doc, .docx
8. The Essay document name should be in this format: CityofBREssay\_Your Name
9. Submissions are open from April 29, 2020 to Midnight May 25, 2020
10. No hard copy submissions will be accepted. All essay submissions must be submitted by email to the following email address [covid19essay@brla.gov](mailto:covid19essay@brla.gov). Incomplete forms without all details will be rejected.
11. Write: Title of the Essay, Name of the Author, Phone number and email of the author, School name, and Class (Senior) at the start of the essay.
12. If any photograph is used with the essay the author must have copyright of the photograph
13. Mayor-President Broome/City of Baton Rouge will not be liable for any copyright violation by the author of the essay.
14. The top five winning entries will be announced by June 15, 2020 and the winners will be notified by email and phone call.
15. Winners will be recognized by Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome via online and public presentation.
16. Confirmation of availability to accept the award by the winners to be confirmed to Mayor President Broome/City of Baton Rouge by June 18, 2020.
17. All contestants must provide age and identification from their birth certificate or passport before participating. A copy of the document is mandatory for winners.

#### Length

700-1,000 words (Title, footnotes and bibliography are not included in the final word count). Hyphenated words count as one (1) word. Words are to be counted manually.

#### Judging Deadlines

The deadline for students to submit essays is by midnight on May 25<sup>th</sup> as determined by Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome. Please contact the Mayor's Office for more information at 225.389.3100.

#### Prizes

Financial Awards in the increments of \$2,000 (first place); \$1,000 (second place); \$500 (third place) and two \$250 (special recognition) will be provided to students along with a certificate of recognition.



All awards will be payable directly to the student and will not be extended to any other named person.

### Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official essay contest topic.
2. Each entry must begin with a title page containing: topic, number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, name of school and date of birth.
3. At the top of Page 1 should be the official topic and the number of words (A penalty of points for lack of topic and for failure to identify the total number of words correctly will be deducted).
4. Essays must be typewritten and double-spaced. (No handwritten essays will be received for judging).
5. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 1,000 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title, bibliography or footnotes. Hyphenated words count as one (1) word. (Deductions will be made for over/under limit. Words are to be counted manually).
6. Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with Page 1, not the title page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.
7. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
8. No reference can be made in the essay that identifies the student, parents, or school represented.
9. An essay may be written in only English.
10. The entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Covers of any type are not accepted.

2. Creativity – 10 points
3. Vocabulary and Style (Phrasing and continuity): 30 points
4. Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling: 20 points
5. Neatness: 5 points
6. Adherence to contest rules (prepared in the proper format): 5 points

### Penalties/Eliminations will be made based upon:

1. Failure to list official topic
2. Failure to accurately identify total number of words
3. Failure to type essay and double-space
4. Failure to stay within the 700-1,000 word limit
5. Self-identification

**All the items must be received by the Mayor's Office Essay Chair no later than Midnight May 25th, 2020!**

### Scoring of Contest

Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.

1. Material Organization (Logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic): 30 points