Application	on for 2015-2016 Optin	nist International Ess	ay Contest
Name	<u>M</u> F	Parent or Guardian Permission:	
Address		I give my permission for my child/ward to particip	pate in this contest.
City		Signature	Date//
State/Province		Relationship	
Telephone ()_		I,gran	t the Optimist Club/International my permission
E-mail		to use a picture of my son/daughter	for their public relations
Date of Birth//	Age	purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the	
Have you participated in any other Optimist O	Club's Essay Contest this school year?□ Yes □ No	Sponsoring Optimist Club Name	
Contestant Agreement:		Sponsoring Optimist Club Number	
I have studied the rules of the contest, and I w	ill be bound by all of the requirements.	Sponsoring Optimist Club Number	
Contestant's Signature	Date//		
	Please send applica	tion to address below:	
Official Topic:	3. No student who has previously won a District	9. An essay may be written in either English, French, or	of identification.
"Lead by Example: Reality or Fiction"	Optimist Essay contest scholarship will be eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.	Spanish if the language used is an official language of the country in which the sponsoring Club is located.	Self-identification: 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification
Essay Contest Rules	 All contestants at each level of the contest must show proof of age before competing. Optimist Clubs may require a copy of birth certificate or passport before participating if 	10. The entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Covers of any type are not accepted.	Section VII - Awards
Each contestant must be given a copy of the rules and complete the entry form. The rules	of birth certificate of passport before participating if offering a Club scholarship separate from Optimist	Section IV – Judging and Timing	Club level – medallion District level – plaque and a \$2,500 college
contain information about the contest, judging and awards.	International. District winners must provide a copy of birth certificate or passport with the District entry	Judging will be completed by a panel of three qualified judges. At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members, who are not acquainted with the contestants. At	scholarship for the first-place winner A. Scholarships are funded by the Optimist

Section I - General Rules

- 1. The Optimist International Essay contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club and District.
- 2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club, or an At-Large contest if a local club is not available. An At-large student may not have competed in 3. an Optimist International or District contest in the same year.
- 3. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others. Webster's dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretative literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.
- 4. All District-level competitions must have a minimum of 3 contestants participating.
- 5. Optimist International will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author.

Section II - Oualifications for Contestants

- 1. The contest is open to students under age 18 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International Contest year (October 1 - September 30). Students must enter in the District in which they reside. U.S. students attending school on military installations outside the U.S. are eligible to enter in their last home of record.
- 2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest during any given year.

Section III - Contest Rules

- 1. Participants must write on the official topic.
- 2. Each entry must begin with a title page containing: the official topic, number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, name of school and date of birth.
- At the top of page 1 should be the official topic and the number of words (penalty of 2 points for lack of topic and 5 points for failure to identify the total number of words
- 4. Essays must be typewritten and double-spaced. (Deduction of 5 points)
- 5. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title, bibliography or footnotes. Hyphenated words count as 1 word (Deduction of 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit).
- 6. Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with page 1 of the essay, not the title page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.
- 7. Any quotations or copyrighted material used must be identified properly. For example, use of a specific writer's format (such as MLA) may be specified by the instructor overseeing the contest. Failure to identify nonoriginal material will result in disqualification.
- student, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. (Deduction of 5 points or fraction based on degree of identification)

No references can be made in the essay that identifies the

- the District level, judges must be non-Optimists.
- 2. In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be assigned a number by the Essay Contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and page 1 of the essay. The title page will then be detached and retained by the Essay Contest Chair. The judges will be given the essay bearing only the assigned
- 3. Judges will not discuss or compare essays being judged.
- 4. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

Section V - Scoring

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

- 1. Material Organization logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic: 40 points
- 2. Vocabulary and Style phrasing and continuity: 30
- 3. Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: 20 points
- 4. Neatness: 5 points
- 5. Adherence to Contest Rules prepared in the proper format: 5 points

Section VI – Penalties

- 1. Failure to list official topic: 2 points
- 2. Failure to accurately identify total number of words: 5
- 3. Failure to type essay and double-space: 5 points
- 4. Failure to stay within the 700-800 word limit: 5 points for each 25 words or fraction based on degree

- International Foundation in the U.S. and Caribbean or the Canadian Childrens Foundation in Canada. Scholarships awarded are for use at a college, university or trade school only.
- B. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
- C. Scholarships must be used in a school located in the United States, Caribbean or Canada. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
- D. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

For more information contact:

Contact Person:	
Coı	ntact Address:
Contact Phone or Email:	