

Essay Code \_\_\_\_\_  
(for official use only)

**The Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice**

**2020 Our Generation Essay Contest**

All fields must be completed for eligibility to enter the contest

Essay Title \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student's School \_\_\_\_\_

Student's pledge: "The work in this paper is original and represents my own  
research, thinking and writing on this subject."

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**The Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice's Inaugural Our Generation Essay Contest**

**For Incoming 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**Submission deadline: August 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Winners announced September 1<sup>st</sup>**

The Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice is a human relations organization solely dedicated to achieving respect and understanding for all people through education, advocacy, and dialogue. Our vision is to eliminate bias, bigotry, and racism in our state, in our generation. We believe that every person has the power to change the world around them.

Our programs reach a broad range of youth and adults and are focused on recognizing and celebrating both our differences and our shared humanity. Our programs are a strong thread in the fabric of Oklahoma, weaving through the decades, touching and changing thousands of lives, making our city and state a better place to live.

The Our Generation Essay Contest challenges young Oklahomans to envision a state without bias, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression. How would our state look and our lives change if all people were treated equitably?

**2020 ESSAY PROMPT:**

A visionary leader is someone who is able to see the end goal and create a path to reach it. Our state and our country have seen visionary leaders create a more inclusive world for all of us. Your task is to research a visionary leader that has progressed diversity, equity and inclusion. Progressing diversity, equity, and inclusion looks like fighting for equality, doing the right thing even when it is difficult, creating change, and other actions that make the world better for all communities. Describe their actions and explain the significance of their accomplishments.

What strategies did this leader use to accomplish their goals? Would this strategy work today?

Inclusion is a collaborative project. Who supported this leader? Explain how these relationships impacted their work.

**ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:**

Length: 500 - 1000 words

Eligibility: Students in grades 9-12 at the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year may participate. Students may win an award only once in each school category.

Your submission must have these three parts:

- Entry Form
- Essay Pages

- Works Cited Page

**ESSAY REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST:**

- Does the essay completely address this year's essay contest topic?
- Have you given your essay a descriptive title?
- Is your essay the required length?
- Is your essay typed, double-spaced, with left and right margins set at 1 inch, on one side of white 8.5 by 11 inch paper with Times New Roman font?
- Have you made sure that your name, school, or city DOES NOT appear anywhere on the essay/manuscript (only on the attached entry form)
- Did you include parenthetical citations of sources used?
- Does your essay have a standardized reference page?

**OUR GENERATION AWARDS:** A winner will be chosen from each grade. The winning essays will be posted to our website and social media. Winners will be invited and recognized at our Annual Awards Dinner.

1<sup>st</sup> Place Prize: \$100

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Prize: \$75

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Prize: \$50

**JUDGING CRITERIA:** Each essay will be judged using the following criteria:

- Depth of research
- Quality of writing
- Fulfillment of the prompt requirements
- Accuracy of factual information
- Responsible citation of sources consulted and referenced in APA format\*
- Fulfillment of contest requirements concerning topic, eligibility, and guidelines

\*A guide to APA format can be found here: <https://www.mendeley.com/guides/apa-citation-guide>

**SUBMISSIONS:** A completed entry form for each student's submission must be included. These must arrive no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Essays can be submitted to [info@occjok.org](mailto:info@occjok.org) or should be mailed to:

Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice – Tulsa Office

100 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 335

Tulsa, OK 74103

For more information contact [amarshall@occjok.org](mailto:amarshall@occjok.org)

