



OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

*We come here to remember those who were killed, those who survived and those changed forever. May all who leave here know the impact of violence. May this memorial offer comfort, strength, peace, hope and serenity.*

Memorial Mission Statement

The Memorial's Mission Statement was created by a 350-member task force that was brought together by an unspeakable act of terrorism. On April 19, 1995, one hundred and sixty-eight individuals were killed in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City. Within months, survivors, family members, first responders and community members united to create the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum.

Instead of letting this horrific act of violence divide us, it brought people together. Everyone united to ensure all those impacted were supported and those responsible were brought to justice. The Memorial and Museum continues to teach us about the power of resilience and that the world holds far more good than evil.

The essay committee at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum is deeply interested in hearing how other individuals or communities have shown strength and resilience to overcome challenges or tragedies.

This program is made possible through the generous support of



[MemorialMuseum.com](http://MemorialMuseum.com)



Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum | PO Box 323 | Oklahoma City, OK 73101  
405.235.3313 | 405.235.3315 fax | [education@okcnm.org](mailto:education@okcnm.org)



OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

# 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

This program is made possible through the generous support of



## ELIGIBILITY

The contest is open to all public, private, parochial or homeschool students in grades 5-12.

## SUGGESTED WORD COUNT

**Grades 5-6** .....350 words  
**Grades 7-8** .....350 words  
**Grades 9-10** .....500 words  
**Grades 11-12** .....500 words

## PRIZES

1st Place....\$100	2nd Place....\$75	3rd Place....\$50
1st Place....\$150	2nd Place....\$100	3rd Place....\$75
1st Place....\$500	2nd Place....\$300	3rd Place....\$150
1st Place....\$1,000	2nd Place....\$750	3rd Place....\$500

## DUE DATE

Entries must be received online at [MemorialMuseum.com/essaycontest](http://MemorialMuseum.com/essaycontest) by 11:59pm CST on Monday, February 21, 2022.

## SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Please make sure the following are completed before submission:

- Is your essay titled?
- Have you reviewed your essay for proper grammar and punctuation?
- Is your student release form complete?
- Is your essay free of names or identifiable information on the body of your paper?

## JUDGING/ CRITERIA

Essays will be judged by educators and community leaders. The decision of the judges is final. Essays will be judged on originality, adherence to topic, and proper grammar, spelling and punctuation.

## NOTIFICATION/ RECOGNITION OF WINNERS

Winners will be contacted by phone or email by March 11, 2022, and will be recognized at a ceremony in early April. A list of the winners and their essays will be posted on the Memorial's website, MemorialMuseum.com.

[MemorialMuseum.com](http://MemorialMuseum.com)



Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum | PO Box 323 | Oklahoma City, OK 73101  
 405.235.3313 | 405.235.3315 fax | [education@okcnm.org](mailto:education@okcnm.org)



OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

# 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

This program is made possible through the generous support of



## Essay Prompt - Grades 5 and 6

(Suggested word count, 350 words)

**Prizes:** 1st Place \$100 2nd Place \$75 3rd Place \$50

Choose a person in history who has displayed resilience in their life. What challenge did they overcome, and how did they display resilience in doing so? How did their resilience impact other people?

## Essay Prompt - Grades 7 and 8

(Suggested word count, 350 words)

**Prizes:** 1st Place \$150 2nd Place \$100 3rd Place \$75

Describe how an individual or community grew and recovered from a difficult experience, hardship, or failure. What can that individual or community's experience teach us about resilience and redemption? Can good things come from a bad experience? If so, how? If not, why not?

## Essay Prompt - Grades 9 and 10

(Suggested word count, 500 words)

**Prizes:** 1st Place \$500 2nd Place \$300 3rd Place \$150

The past is a great teacher. The Oklahoma City Memorial teaches us about the power and significance of recovery after destruction. Choose another event from the past that has the power to teach us a significant lesson. Describe the event and what we can learn from it. Then, in addition, explain what we can learn from that event about the power and significance of resilience and redemption.

## Essay Prompt - Grades 11 and 12

(Suggested word count, 500 words)

**Prizes:** 1st Place \$1,000 2nd Place \$750 3rd Place \$500

Adversity, difficulty, harm, struggle, damage, failure: individuals, groups, and communities invariably experience significant suffering and genuine hardships. However, in their response to those kinds of events, individuals, groups, and communities often display resilience, find redemption, and resolve to move forward. Describe a local, state, or national event in which a group or individual responded to suffering and hardship with resilience, redemption, and/or resolution. What can their response teach us about how communities and individuals can best respond to suffering and hardship?