

**THE 2018 CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA  
CLASSICAL ESSAY CONTEST**

- The CAV Classical Essay Contest is designed to recognize those students who have submitted outstanding essays in English on a topic appropriate to each level or class.
- The contest is open to students in the public and private middle and high schools of Virginia, and homeschoolers, whose teachers are **current** members of the Classical Association of Virginia.
- Essays shall be submitted **in English** in the following divisions:
  - **First Year Latin: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum: the importance of the Forum to Roman society** (Division A for students in grade 6-8; Division B for grades 9-12)
  - **Second Year Latin: Wonder Woman: Cloelia as a Roman hero**
  - **\*Third Year Latin: My Big Fat (Roman) Wedding: Weddings in Ancient Rome**
  - **Advanced Latin** (Latin III and above\*):
    - **Vergil: O Brother Where Art Thou: Influence of the Odyssey in Vergil's *Aeneid***
    - **Poetry: 10 Things I Hate About You: Ovid's Description of Daphne**
    - **\*\*History: Game of Thrones: the Civil Wars of AD 69 and the Rise of Vespasian**

**\*N.B.:** Students who are in their third year of Latin who choose to do the general third year topic will be judged only with other Third Year students. They may also submit an essay in one of the advanced topics. This is so that we do not prevent students who are in their third year and doing one of the advanced authors from writing on the author they are currently studying. Those essays will be judged in the same pool as the advanced level students.

**\*\*N.B.:** The history topic is open to both Latin 3 and Latin 4+ students, and will be graded in separate groups.

**N.B.:** Students at the Third Year and Advanced levels may submit essays in more than one category.

- Essays should be **roughly 1000 words, typed double-spaced on single sides of the page.**
- The first page of the essay may include a title. The **student's name should not appear on any page of the essay**, and the **pages of the essay should be numbered.**
- Each entry must come with a [COVER PAGE \(Word\)](#) | [COVER PAGE \(.pdf\)](#). Please use the form provided here.
- The cover page shall include:
  - name and home address of the contestant
  - name and address (with city or district) of the school
  - name of the teacher
  - year of Latin studied in 2016-2017 (First, Second, etc., AP is NOT a level)
  - student's grade level
  - essay topic

- No help may be received from any person in the research, preparation, and/or writing of the essay. Books and electronic sources may (indeed, generally should) be consulted, provided that all research is completed by the student and **proper acknowledgement** of intellectual property is given. **A list of sources and works cited** should be provided at the end of the essay on a separate page. A good on-line source for help in the formal preparation of an essay is Purdue's online writing lab (OWL), which can be found at: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_mla.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html)
- Teachers, of course, are allowed to guide students toward the types of reference material to consult, and provide general instruction on the writing of a good essay. However, teachers **must not** provide any editorial feedback to the students. That is, they should not be reading and commenting on their students' essays before the final form in which they will be submitted.
- **Essays should present a clear, coherent synthesis of material researched. A lively and well-organized essay** is better than a laundry list of facts. Judges look for verve and imagination in the writing, and not merely quantity of research. To this end, **it has been the policy to accept essays that are closer to creative writing exercises than to the traditional expository essay.** It is to be understood, however, that the same amount of factual content and critical thought must be in evidence in whatever form the essay takes. It should be noted as well that what appears to be a creative approach to writing an essay begins to look less and less creative when essay after essay is written in the same pattern.
- **The fee is \$2.00 per student.** Teachers who are not members of CAV should send their **dues of \$20.00** with the entrance fee. Make checks payable to the *Classical Association of Virginia*. Ineligible entries will be discarded.
- **Please note** that by entering this contest you are giving the Classical Association of Virginia consent to publish your name in its official publications. Winners' names will be published on the CAV website and in the CAV newsletter.
- **Note also:** the winning essays will be posted on the CAV website in pdf form. If students do not want their names published and/or essays posted, they should please add a note to that effect on their cover page.
- The contest closes on **Friday, March 2, 2018.** Entries may be submitted electronically or sent through US mail. Those postmarked after the closing date will be discarded. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the Spring meeting. All entries should be sent to:

**Nadia Ghosheh**  
 Director of CAV Classical Essay Contest  
 5809 Chase Commons Ct., Apt. 205  
 Burke, VA 22015  
[nadiaghosheh@gmail.com](mailto:nadiaghosheh@gmail.com)