

SKAGIT DEMOCRATS ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES

The 2017 Skagit Democrats Essay Contest topic is **"America benefits from immigration."**
The top three entries will receive awards of \$750, \$500, and \$250, respectively.

Eligibility

The contest is open to juniors and seniors from all Skagit County public high schools.

Requirements

1. On the topic "America benefits from immigration," write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.
2. Essays must be the original work of the student.
3. Essays must be long enough to fully explain the writer's points, but no more than 750 words, not including footnotes, citations, and bibliographies.
4. Essays must be submitted between January 15 and March 15, 2017.

Submission criteria

1. Method of entry is only through on-line submission to SCDessayentry@yahoo.com
2. NO attachments will be accepted; copy and paste text into body of email.
3. Include name, address, telephone number, and school at the beginning of the essay and in NO OTHER PLACE to allow anonymous judging.
4. Entries received after March 15, 2017 will not be accepted.

Criteria for judging

1. Demonstrated understanding of the topic
2. Insight, incisiveness, originality
3. Persuasive, convincing, supportive detail
4. Presentation - style, clarity, vocabulary, structure, grammar.

Procedure

1. Essays will be judged by a team representing the Skagit Democratic Party, local educators, and the community.
2. Winners will be announced on the Skagit Democrats website, skagitdemocrats.org on April 16, 2017.
3. Winners will be invited to a reception at the Skagit Democrat Headquarters to read their essays and receive their awards.

Miscellaneous

1. Judges will have no knowledge of a contestant's name, school, relationships, ethnicity, or any other legally protected status.
2. No preconceived outcome will be imposed on the essays by the judges; student conclusions and opinions will be evaluated based on the strength of the facts and reasoning set forth in support of those conclusions and opinions.
3. Skagit Democrats, as sponsor of the contest, will be the final arbiter of all questions regarding entries, judging, interpretation of the rules, and any other aspect of this contest.
4. Essays become the property of Skagit County Democrats and winning essays will be posted on the Skagit Democrats website.