



Town of Oro Valley

2024 William H. Adler Historical Writing Contest
Sponsored by: The Oro Valley Historic Preservation Commission
The contest will be open January 16 through March 26, 2024

Eligibility Requirements

All students in the fourth grade (including charter, public, private, or homeschooled), who reside in the Amphitheater School District boundaries, are eligible to participate in the writing contest. Students who have family members that serve on the Oro Valley Historic Preservation Commission are ineligible to participate.

Awards

Every contestant will receive a certificate of participation and awards will be presented at an Oro Valley public event. Awards are valued at \$100 (first place), \$75 (second place) and \$50 (third place).

The Essay

Your essay must be related to one of the three essay topics provided below. There are many resources available on the internet as well local libraries, museums, people, schools, colleges or cultural sites available to help guide you in your writing. By using primary and secondary resources, successful essays will reflect a student's understanding of the material and demonstrate original thinking.

Essay Topics

Please pick one question for your essay.

1. Who is Francisco Romero? Where did he settle and what challenges did he and his family encounter? Consider food, clothing, shelter, water, and threats to their safety.
2. Oro Valley is known for its appreciation of the arts. How is this appreciation a continuation of ancient tradition in this area? What art forms did the Hohokam leave that we now appreciate? Identify and describe three of the area's prehistoric art forms.
3. Please name and highlight a local athlete that has gone on to play college or professional sports. Please tell us what local school they went to, what sports team they went on to play for, as well as any personal achievements or accomplishments they had in their athletic career.

Celebrating 50 Years of Community

11000 N. La Cañada Drive, Oro Valley, Arizona 85737
www.orovalleyaz.gov | phone: (520) 229-4700 | fax: (520) 297-0428

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Contest Regulations

All essays must comply with the following contest rules before submission.

- No literary form other than an expository essay will be accepted.
- Each essay must reflect the contestant's own research, writing and original thinking.
- All sources must be properly cited.
- Only one (1) essay may be submitted by each contestant.
- Each contestant must complete and attach the student entry form on page three.
- The essay should be between 300 and 750 words.
- Entries may be typed or neatly written.
- The author's name should only appear on the first page of the essay.
- The title of the essay **MUST** appear on the top of all pages of the essay.
- Entries must be emailed by 5:00 p.m. on the contest due date of March 26, 2024.
- Questions may be directed to 520-229-5038 or mtolmie@orovalleyaz.gov.

Judging

Oro Valley Historic Preservation Commission members will judge the essays using the following four criteria:

- Historical Accuracy: (1-5 pts.) Is it historically accurate?
- Writing: (1-5 pts.) Is the essay neat and contains correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation?
- Independent Thinking: (1-5 pts.) Does the essay show creativity? Are the ideas unique?
- Research: (1-5 pts.) Does the essay document use multiple resources?

Each category will be rated 1 through 5, with 5 as the highest score. The sum of all the categories will be the essay's final score with a maximum of 20 points.

Resource Ideas:

- Every second Saturday, Oct – April, at Steam Pump Ranch, the Oro Valley Historic Society (OVhistory.org) is available to give tours and provide the history of past residents of the Ranch.
- Every second Saturday, Oct – April, at Steam Pump Ranch, Archaeology Southwest is available to answer questions and demonstrate many aspects of pre-historic life as part of Archaeology Southwest's; "Hands on Archaeology."
- There are also many archaeology sites in the area, including Catalina State Park.
- OroValleyAZ.gov and other websites may be a good source of information.
- Newspaper articles, books, interviews, etc.

Essays will become the property of the Oro Valley Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission may reprint, publish or use at their discretion. Appropriate citations will be given to the authors.

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Student Entry Form
THIS ENTRY FORM MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR WRITING
Please Print Neatly

Student Information

Full Name: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

Teacher Contact Phone/Email _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

By signing, you agree that the Commission may reprint, publish, or use at their discretion.

Email submission no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 to:
mtolmie@orovalleyaz.gov

Questions may be directed to 520-229-5038 or mtolmie@orovalleyaz.gov.