

# Mt. Vernon Optimist Essay Contest

The 2026 Topic is

**“How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My  
Community Means to Me”**

Compose a 700 - 800 word essay on this topic

Contest is open to students under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2025

Cash Prizes awarded by Mt Vernon Optimist Club

- First Place \$300
- Second Place \$200
- Third Place \$100

The winner will advance to the district competition, The district winner will win a \$2500 scholarship

**Completed applications and Essays must be presented  
to Mrs. Zelenick by Noon on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**

Please see Mrs. Zelencik for an entry form and copy of the official rules, or with any questions.

Applications available at Mt. Vernon High School Library or  
[www.mvoptimist.com](http://www.mvoptimist.com)

\*All requirements can be found on the application.