

Guidelines for MOVCMCF Essay Contest – 2021

Eligibility:

2020-2021 High school seniors in Wood County, WV or Washington County, OH who plan to continue their education

Recognition:

AWARD: \$500

As the 2021 festival has been cancelled, the winner will be notified and will be announced in early August on the MOVCMCF Facebook page.

Essay Rules:

- Student must submit a completed entry form.
- Length: 2-3 typed pages, double-spaced. The student's name should NOT be on the essay.
- Essays are to be student-written
- MOVCMCF Committee members or their designees will judge. Essays will be judged on the basis of authenticity and self-reflection, clarity, and effective and thoughtful expression, as well as addressing the topic.

Questions? Contact MOVCMCF Representative Charlotte Owens, cowensus@yahoo.com, (304)482-0626, also accessible by text.

Please submit your essay by June 30, 2021 to cowensus@yahoo.com ; please put "MOVCMCF Scholarship" and your name in the subject line. Please put the entry form information in the e-mail, or attach it in a separate form from the essay. Remember to attach your essay. Please send your essay in Word, or PDF, *without your name on the essay.*

Entry form

Name: _____

School from which you are graduating in spring 2021 _____

Topic selected _____

School you are planning to attend in 2021-22 _____

Phone number _____ E-mail _____

Teacher or Guidance Counselor who knows you _____

The Mid-Ohio Valley Multi-Cultural Festival was established to help us all learn about and appreciate various cultures, including our own, whatever culture that may be. If we are exposed to different ways of living, we become more aware of who we are and how we live. So we are asking you to tell a story about culture through essay.

Essays should be based on one of the following topics:

Topic 1: Do you think people being disrespected or mistreated because of their race, cultural heritage (including Appalachian), gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, economic status or other characteristic is a problem in this area? Several years ago, Parkersburg put up signs proclaiming itself to be an inclusive community. Do you think your community is an inclusive community? Explain. What could it do to become a more inclusive community?

Topic 2: What is institutional racism and what are some examples? As you learned more about various situations, what was your reaction?

Topic 3: Except for the Native Americans, we are a nation of immigrants, whether brought here by decision or force. What stories do you have of your immigrant heritage? What impact has your heritage had on you?

Topic 4: Do you consider yourself to be of Appalachian heritage? What do you consider Appalachian heritage to be? What are the strengths and the struggles associated with Appalachian heritage? How does it affect you?

Topic 5: Interview someone (your age or older) who was born outside of the US. With a desire to understand that person, think what questions you want to ask to learn about where they came from and what their immigrant experience is, then write your essay describing what you learned.

Topic 6: Interview someone (your age or older) of a significantly different religious background than yourself. With a desire to understand that person, without trying to persuade or convert them, learn about how their religious background affects their culture and family, then write your essay describing what you learned.

Topic 7: The end of last school year and this, your senior year is in the age of the COVID-19 pandemic. What have you learned about yourself, others, life, or the world from this experience? Has it increased your empathy or challenged it? What insights do you want to take away from this experience?