

The Classical Association of Virginia

2017 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** on the following topics in the following divisions:
 - **First Year Latin:** ***Thermae Romanae:*** A Day at the Roman bath house
(Division A for grades 6-8; Division B for grades 9-12)
 - **Second Year Latin:** ***Panem et Circenses:*** The Life of a Roman Gladiator
 - ***Third Year Latin:** ***Memoria et Monumenta:*** Arches, Columns, Tombs and other
Monuments in the City of Rome
 - **Advanced Latin** (Latin III and above*):
 - **Vergil:** ***Qualis in Eurotae ripis aut iuga Cynthi***
exercet Diana choros
– Explore the characterization of Dido in Book I of the *Aeneid*
 - **Poetry:** **“*Militat omnis amans*”:**
- Explore the tension between love and war in Ovidian
poetry
 - ****History:** Explore the tone of Pliny the Younger’s Letter 6.16, the eruption of
Mt. Vesuvius

* **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 space 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** (A **COVER SHEET FORM** is available on the CONTESTS webpage for convenience. It is requested that entrants use this form.)

- The cover page shall include:
 - name & home address of the **contestant**;
 - name and address of the **school**;
 - name of the **teacher**;
 - **year of Latin** studied in '15-'16 (1st, 2nd, etc.);
 - student's **grade level**;
 - **level of contest**;
 - **essay topic**.
- Full information: www.cavclassics.org/contests.htm
- 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/owl/search.php>
- 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 \$15.00** 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 receipt deadline is **Friday, February 24, 2017.** 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 CAV meeting. All entries should be sent to:

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