



2020 Teen Diversity Essay Contest Application

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Address: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____
School: _____ Grade: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email Address: _____
Essay Title: _____
Essay Submission Date: _____

Essay Topic and Charge

- 1. A stereotype is a widely-held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a person, frequently based on that person's race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or gender-identity. Stereotypes are often unconscious and may be introduced and reinforced—intentionally or unwittingly—by many sources, including family, peers, the popular media, curricula, and society at large.

Last year's TEAM Westport contest focused on microaggressions. This year's challenge asks you to examine stereotypes, which often inspire microaggressions and fuel bias and overt racism.

In 1000 words or fewer, describe your experiences witnessing, delivering, and/or being subjected to stereotypes focused on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity, and describe the impact that such experiences are likely to have upon recipients. Consider steps that organizations, schools, and/or individuals could take to counteract stereotypes—whether as initiator, recipient or witness.

- 2. Submit the following together as a complete package:
a. Completed application with signatures of student and parent/guardian.
b. An essay according to the "Essay Topic and Charge" stated above.
• Essay should be double-spaced with title in the header of each page along with author's name, page number and submission date in the footer.

- 3. Mail the package to
TEAM Westport Essay Contest
c/o Human Services Department
Westport Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport CT 06880 [Postmark deadline is February 28, 2020]
OR

Scan completed application and email package to info@teamwestport.org.. [Email receipt deadline is February 28, 2020]

All applicants must be grade 9-12 students who are Westport residents or attend a Westport school (public or private).

- 1. All submissions become the property of TEAM Westport and the Town of Westport, CT.
2. The applicant and parent/guardian certify that the essay being submitted is exclusively the work of the applicant.
3. If the applicant's essay is chosen for one of the prizes the applicant and parent/guardian agree that they will make themselves available for photographs and/or videos and such photos and/or videos as well as the essay may be used for publicity including media distribution by TEAM Westport, the Westport Library and the Town of Westport.
4. The awards ceremony for this contest will take place on April 2, 2020 at the Westport Library at 6:30pm. All winners will be contacted prior to the event.

Signatures

By signing below, the applicant and their parent/guardian certify their agreement to the above terms, as well as to the validity of the information submitted.

Applicant Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Pls Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____