

THE ESSAY

The TOPIC for this year's Essay:

Washington Youth Tour students have an opportunity to meet with their Congressional Representative. As a member of your Nation, write an essay about the concerns you would discuss. Explain why these issues are important to you.

1. The essay requirement is worth 100 points out of the 300 to determine the finalists. Your essay should be at least 500 words long.

The essay is due at the TOUA office by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 along with the completed Biographical Information Sheet signed by your guardian.

3. The essay must be typed (double-spaced) and should NOT have your name on it, nor should the content identify you in any way. (A code will be assigned to your essay when you turn it in.)

The Essay Format is 10 pt. or 11 pt. font in either Times New Roman or Arial with 1 inch side margins and 1 inch top and bottom margins.

4. A panel of judges will evaluate the essays based on the following four criteria:

~ Format (as stated above) 20 points ~ Adherence to correct mechanics/usage 20 points
~ Originality 20 points ~ Content 40 Points

THE INTERVIEW

1. The Interview is worth 200 points out of the 300 to determine the finalists.
2. The Interview portion of the competition allows judges to learn more about you, your background, activities, goals and interests. It will also demonstrate how well you present yourself to others.
3. Be prepared to be interviewed by a panel of judges who will ask each finalist the same pre-determined questions. The entire interview process will last at least 15 – 20 minutes.
4. The judges will score your interview on five factors:
 - ~ Appearance 40 points ~ Community/School Involvement 40 points
 - ~ Personality 40 points ~ Responsibility 40 points
 - ~ Effective communication 40 points

NOTE: Past judges said they are impressed by confident, enthusiastic students who are involved in their school and community and who have an awareness of themselves and the world. The best advice is to be yourself and take the opportunity to allow the judges to learn about you.

GOOD LUCK!