

STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

The Fred Winn Democratic Essay Contest

**1st
Place**
\$1,500
cash prize

**2nd
Place**
\$750
cash prize

**3rd
Place**
\$500
cash prize



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Sponsored by:
Democrats of El Dorado County



QUESTION:

“The mental health crisis among young people is an emergency – and social media has emerged as an important contributor.”

– Vivek Murthy, Surgeon General of the United States

In addition to your own experience and personal observations, cite and discuss evidence to support or negate his contention that social media is an important contributor to the mental health crisis.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- 1** **Originality:** research is encouraged, but students should present their own ideas.
- 2** **Persuasiveness** and consistency of the argument and evidence.
- 3** **Clarity and logic** of the presentation.
- 4** Proper grammar, word choice, spelling & citations

The contest is open to junior and senior students from all public high schools in El Dorado County (including El Dorado High School District, Golden Sierra and South Lake Tahoe). Students will submit their essays to Democrats of El Dorado County no later than **January 31, 2025** and fill out and sign the **ESSAY CONTEST FORM**.

Winners will be awarded their prizes between **March and April**.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Essays must be a minimum of 900 words and no more than 1200 words in length, double spaced in 11 or 12 point type with each page numbered and a total word count appearing on Entry Form and on the last page.
- ✓ Students must cite all sources of information used in researching and writing their essays, observing the correct forms of citation and quotation.
- ✓ Students must produce original work and submit only one essay.
- ✓ FOUR copies of the essay must be submitted: the original and three copies, each stapled in the upper lefthand corner (no other types of binding please).
- ✓ No email or fax submissions will be accepted. Students must not include their name, grade level or school name on any page of their essay.
- ✓ The title of the essay should appear both at the top of the first page of the essay and on the entry form. Upon receipt, a unique number will be assigned to each submission and the entry form. The judges will receive only anonymous copies.
- ✓ Essays will be judged by a panel of three. No judge may be a member of an El Dorado County Democratic Club. The decision of the judges will be final.



Be sure to follow [@demoessay](#) on instagram for more info!

Student's Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Grade Level: _____ Student's Age: _____

School Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City & Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Title of Essay: _____ Word Count: _____

I understand and agree to the submission requirements. Democrats of El Dorado County shall have the right to use the student's name, photograph and essay submitted in connection with any and all publicity and promotional activities regarding this contest. All entries become the property of the Democrats of El Dorado County and will not be returned. Democrats of El Dorado County accept no liability whatsoever for the loss or non-receipt of student essays. All winners must furnish the Democrats of El Dorado County with appropriate tax documentation (i.e. valid W-9 forms) in order to receive cash awards. All taxes on prizes are the responsibility of winners. The decision of the judges will be final.

Student Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 2025

Mail this form and required copies of your essay to:
Democrats of El Dorado County
P.O. Box 762, Diamond Springs, CA 95619

