

**YSU Mahoning Valley (YSU-MV) High School
Economics Essay Contest**

Department of Economics
Youngstown State University

Purpose

The Department of Economics at Youngstown State University is excited to announce the launch of the first YSU Mahoning Valley (YSU-MV) High School Economics Essay Contest. It is to encourage local high school students to actively participate in discussions and debates on important economic events and policies at local, regional, national, or global level. The contest is open to high school students of any year in the Mahoning Valley. This is a great opportunity for students to demonstrate their skills in writing an argument essay and apply economic principles to analyze current events.

Prizes

- Winner: \$500
- Runner-up: \$250
- Third place: \$100

All the prize recipients are invited to attend, with costs fully covered, the annual banquet hosted by the Department of Economics at YSU on April 22nd, 2020. Also, the winning essay will be featured in the Fall Newsletter published by the Department of Economics.

Topic and Length: Your essay can cover any policy topic, but preference will be given to the suggested topics listed on the second page. The main text of your essay, excluding title, references, appendix, tables, diagrams, or notes, should be at least 1,000 words but should not exceed 1,250 words. Please include the word count on the title page.

Writing Format: Please follow the Modern Language Association (MLA) style for citations, bibliography, notes, margins and indentation, etc. For formatting guidelines, please visit the websites on MLA style, such as https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html. Or, look for tutoring videos on Youtube. Essays that do not follow the MLA style will be disqualified.

Submission Instructions and Conditions:

- Please submit your essay as a Word or PDF file by email to Ms. Nancy O’Hara at neohara@ysu.edu. Any other document format will not be accepted.
- Please state “**YSU-MV Economics Essay Contest**” in the subject, and your name, contact information, and essay title in the body of the email
- Make sure that you give credit to all the cited work. Plagiarism will result in disqualification.
- You may choose to cite from newspapers, news magazines, academic publications, or government documents. However, citations from general encyclopedias, such as Wikipedia, will disqualify the essays.
- Your essay will be judged by faculty members of Department of Economics at YSU.

- Please do not include any information of your ID (your name, name of your teacher or mentor, or name of school, etc.) in the essay text.
- Your essay must not have already been published or be submitted to any other contest.
- You may only submit your essay once. No updates or further submissions will be accepted.
- All prize recipients agree to have their essays with their names and affiliations published in the Newsletter issued by the Department of Economics at YSU.

Key dates:

- Opening of submission: January 27th, 2020
- Deadline of submission: 11:59 p.m. EDT on March 31st, 2020. Submissions after the deadline will be rejected.
- Notification of prize recipients: April 15th, 2020
- Award ceremony: April 22nd, 2020

Suggested Topics

1. Thousands of workers lost jobs due to the closure of GM Lordstown assembly plant. The economic consequences of the plant closure could be far greater than what directly resulted from the job loss. What is your assessment of its overall economic impact? And more importantly, what businesses or industries would be most likely to thrive in the Mahoning Valley? Explain why.
2. Behavioral economics studies the effects of psychological factors on economic decision-making processes of individuals and institutions. As we all know, vegetables are an essential part of a healthy diet. However, most people in the U.S., especially students, don't eat enough vegetables. Applying the insights of behavioral economics/sciences, can you suggest any ideas that would encourage students to eat more vegetables in school cafeterias?
3. Greta Thunberg, the seventeen-year-old environmental activist, has been catapulted to international fame for undertaking awareness campaigns on climate crisis. In your opinion (backed up with facts and data), how has global economic development affected environment? What actions should be taken by individual, businesses, or government to address environmental concerns?
4. While automation (robotics and artificial intelligence) has significantly boosted productivity and economic growth and arguably has made our lives easier and more enjoyable, it has also eliminated millions of jobs in areas where humans are replaced by robots. What do you envision will happen in the next 10 years with respect to the economic impact of automation? And what skills should be emphasized for jobs that could not be easily performed by robots?