

**YSU Mahoning Valley (YSU-MV) High School  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Economics Essay Contest**

Lariccia School of Accounting and Finance  
Williamson College of Business Administration  
Youngstown State University

**Purpose**

Lariccia School of Accounting and Finance at Youngstown State University is excited to announce the second Annual YSU Mahoning Valley (YSU-MV) High School Economics Essay Contest. This contest encourages 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

We hope to hold a celebration in Spring 2021, pandemic limitations permitting, to recognize all the prize recipients.

**Topic and Length:** Your essay may cover any economics-related topics, 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](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](mailto:neohara@ysu.edu). Any other document format will not be accepted.
- Please state “**YSU-MV Economics Essay Contest**” in the subject line, 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 Lariccia School 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 Lariccia School at YSU.

**Key dates:**

- Opening of submission: December 15, 2020
- Deadline of submission: 11:59 p.m. EDT on February 26, 2021. Submissions after the deadline will be rejected.
- Notification of prize recipients: April 15, 2021

**Suggested Topics**

1. Since the onset of COVID-19, the global economy as well as day-to-day human interactions has been unprecedentedly disrupted. Explain, with examples, how the pandemic has impacted the economy? What economic policies have been implemented or are still needed to combat the economic crisis caused by the pandemic? And how the pandemic could permanently shake up the industry landscape of the world?
2. Comparing the economic plan of president-elect Joe Biden to that of Trump administration, how would a democratic president reshape the path of U.S. economy moving forward?
3. Based on the facts about the current state of the wealth and income inequality in the U.S., what do you think are the main causes? What suggestions do you have to help narrow the gaps?
4. New enterprises, like Lordstown Motors, Ultium Cells, and TJX distribution center, are creating thousands of jobs in Mahoning valley. What type of new businesses will lead the path of redefining the business world? As a result, what job skills will be in high demand over the next 5 to 10 years?