Student Essay Contest

On October 20 and 21, NorQuest College will host A Civil Society Speaker Series Canada 150+, an event that explores the five pillars of a civil society, as they are defined by the Canadians for a Civil Society, a group focused on inclusion and diversity and sponsor of the student essay contest.

Open to all NorQuest College students, this contest will address the pillars of civil society, including three categories of entry and an award of $300 for the top essay in each category.

The Categories

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<th>Categories</th>
<th>Essay Requirements</th>
<th>Contestants Must Be Registered In</th>
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| Category A | • Use of full sentences  
• 150-500 words | A language program or course (ESL or LINC) excluding English for Academic Purposes (EAP) |
| Category B | • Multi-paragraph essay  
400-700 words | Academic Upgrading |
| Category C | • Multi-paragraph essay  
• At least one academic source and proper acknowledgement  
• 500-1000 words | A certificate or diploma program, open studies, or English for Academic Purposes (EAP) |

The Essay Topic

Write an essay providing your insight or personal connection to one of the five pillars of a civil society:
1. Respect
2. Literacy
3. Human Rights
4. Rule of Law
5. Economic Opportunity

How does Canada support this pillar? How does one of the cultures or nations within Canada support the pillar? How can we help build one of the pillars to make a better world?
**The Rules**

- You must be a current NorQuest Student
- Do not put your name or identification (ID) on the essay
- Complete the Essay Contest identification form (pick up a copy in the Learner Centre or print from norquest.ca/speakersseries150) and submit with your essay by 12:00 pm on Friday, October 13, 2017 to:
  - The Library Circulation or Tutorial Services desk (2nd floor, Singhmar Centre for Learning)
- One entry per student only
- Instructors may not submit an essay on behalf of a student
- If the submitted essay was used for a class assignment, the essay must be submitted free of grading or instructor markings; if instructor markings exist on the essay, it will be disqualified
- If you submit an essay that was used to fulfill a class assignment, you may not use the essay contest as a valid cause for a grade appeal; the rubric for the contest and in-class assignment are different and not weighted the same
- You may not seek support from the Writing Centre, Tutorial Services, or Accommodated Learning Support for help writing an essay for this competition
- Your essay submission must be your own work; judges will investigate suspicions of plagiarism and if declared, the essay will be removed from the contest
- Essays must follow the criteria established; judges may, at their sole discretion, ban any person from entering the contest or dismiss the essay if it’s believed that rules were abused

**Helpful Checklist**

The essay will focus on one of the five pillars of a civil society as it relates to the future vision of Canada for the next 150 years.

Essays submitted for this competition may vary in style and form (i.e. they can be descriptive, narrative, comparison-contrast, or critical/analytical), but all must include a reflection on the chosen pillar and/or make a connection to personal experience.

- Use full sentences
- Paragraphs are written with topic sentences and concluding or transition sentences
- Category B & C: include an introduction and conclusion
- Include a creative title and hook or grabber
- Offer personal reflection on the pillar
- Category C: include reference to one relevant, reliable source that is properly cited
- Do not plagiarize

Personal information collected: your name, your student ID, your contact information (email or phone number) will be used to administer the contest and award prizes. Once contest winners have been identified and have accepted the prize, all essays and attached personal information will be destroyed. Collection is authorized under section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act and is managed in accordance with the Act. The winning essays may be displayed, discussed or read at the Canada150 + Speaker Series event (October 2017).

Contest winners will be asked to consent to the release of their essay, their name, and area of study for the purpose of announcement. If you wish to have a copy of your essay, you are advised to make a copy before you submit it for entry. Questions about the specific collection and use of this personal information can be directed to Eve Poirier, Learner Centre, Singhmar Centre for Learning, 10215-108St Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1L6; Tel: 780-644-6258; and Email: eve.poirier@norquest.ca

The student essay contest is supported by Canadians For A Civil Society.