



# ETC \$2,000 Scholarship Contest

## 2025 Entry Form and Rules for Rancho Murieta Graduating High School Seniors

Entertainment, Theatre and Culture (ETC) is a non-profit association dedicated to promoting affordable family entertainment events in the community of Rancho Murieta. The winner of the ETC essay contest will receive a \$2,000 scholarship to the trade school, college or university of attendance. Graduating high school seniors who live in Rancho Murieta and who will be attending an accredited school in the fall or spring terms of 2025-2026 should submit a 550-600 word essay that addresses **one of the three questions listed below**:

1. **How have Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Social Media influenced the Arts for the better or for the worse?**
2. **Discuss why you feel it is important to support Arts Education in the schools and the Arts in our Communities?**
3. **Explain how experiencing the Arts ( dance, music, visual art, theater) has made you a better person.**

Entrant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M / F School & Grad Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Rancho Murieta CA 95683; Telephone: (h) \_\_\_\_\_

Entrant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian (print name and sign): \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility.** You are eligible to enter the ETC Essay Contest if you are a graduating high school senior and resident of Rancho Murieta who will be attending a trade school, college or university in the school year 2025-2026.

**Prize.** The winner will be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship paid directly to the college, university or trade school of attendance no later than May 30, 2026 based on verification of enrollment. Joint submissions are not permitted. An individual winner will be announced at the ETC concert on July 26, 2025.

**Entry Deadline.** Entries must be mailed by May 30, 2025. Entries postmarked after May 30, 2025 will NOT be accepted.

**Rules.** Each contestant must fill out and sign a copy of this rules/entry form. A copy should be retained by the contestant. This form contains important information about the contest, judging and award process and should be read fully. Participants must write on the official topic and compose an original literary work without guidance from others. Eligible contestants may submit only one entry to this contest.

**Submissions.** All entries must be submitted in English. All entries must be double-spaced and typewritten to fit an 8.5 x 11" sheet of paper with 1" margins. All pages must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Covers or folders are not accepted. Entries must be submitted along with this official Essay Contest submission form available at the RMA Building or by request at philan.etcrm@gmail.com. Mail entries to: ETC Essay Contest, Attn: S. Stanislaus, 6067 Puerto Drive, Rancho Murieta CA 95683. Each entry must answer **one** of the official topic questions above. Each submission must include a separate title page containing: topic, number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, date of birth and anticipated high school graduation date. DO NOT include the author's name on the pages of the essay. Include a page number centered at the bottom of each page. Each submission must be 550-600 words. Entries that exceed 600 words will be disqualified. The word count will encompass only the actual text of the essay (not the title page, bibliography or footnotes). Entries should contain footnotes if using previously published information. Disqualification will occur if you 1) fail to identify non-original material or 2) reference the writer's gender, nationality, sexual orientation or religion.

**Publication.** The winning entry in the ETC Essay Scholarship Contest may be published in the River Valley Times and on etc-rm.org. By submitting an entry in this contest, each applicant gives ETC all rights, including express permission to edit and publish the entry in all media without limitation, notice or compensation.

**Judging.** A panel of qualified, non-ETC judges will judge all entries without any outside influence. All decisions are final. To conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be assigned a number by a non-judging third party, and each page of the document will be marked with that number before the title page is separated from the essay. Judges will use the same scoring guide for each essay that contains the following six categories with a maximum of five points awarded per category:

- 1) **Idea:** a clear thesis supported by evidence, examples and details.
- 2) **Organization:** a clear introduction and conclusion developed by supporting paragraphs with details, evidence and examples.
- 3) **Voice:** the unique perspective of the writer, achieved by honesty, conviction, integrity and believability.
- 4) **Word Choice:** the use of rich colorful, precise language that moves and enlightens the reader.
- 5) **Conventions:** avoiding first person; using standard academic format with correctness of spelling, grammar and word usage.
- 6) **Subject Matter:** research-based knowledge of the subject matter.

The judges' scores will be totaled and the highest scoring essay wins. Judges will not discuss or compare the essays except in the case of a tie. The judges will disqualify any essay that fails to identify the number of words, fails to stay within the 550 to 600-word range, is not double-spaced, or includes the writer's gender, nationality, sexual orientation or religion within the essay.

The ETC Executive Board will be the final arbiter of all questions regarding entries, judging, the interpretation of the rules and any other aspect of the ETC Essay Scholarship Contest.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Stanislaus, ETC Board Member and Philanthropy Chair, at 916-354-0901

*Keeping the Arts Alive in Our Community!*