

EXCEL IN THE ESTRIE!

Essay Challenge



HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: SHARE YOUR STORIES!

Since 2012, the **Excel in the Estrie!** essay challenge has celebrated the success of high school seniors and helped them to think proactively about their future in the Eastern Townships.

Organized by the **Place aux jeunes Eastern Townships** project, the challenge was originally launched alongside the regional Hooked on School Days initiative to celebrate school perseverance.

We want to hear your stories about overcoming obstacles on your path to graduation how you see yourself, in the future, living and working in the region. Enter today and share your story!

Submit your essay by April 12th, 2024 before 5:00 p.m.

ELIGIBILITY

This contest is open to all secondary students (public, private or homeschool) in the Eastern Townships region's English-speaking community, who also meet the following criteria:

- Attending an English-language high school in the historical Eastern Townships, or if homeschooled, their education was predominantly in English;
- Graduating in the 2021-2022 school year;
- Accepted* to a post-secondary institution (college/CÉGEP, vocational or technical training) in the Estrie.

**Please note winners will be required to provide proof of application before claiming their award.*

CONSENT AGREEMENT

This portion must be signed and submitted with your entry.

By signing below, I acknowledge, agree and certify that:

- A. I have read, understand and agree to follow the rules governing the “Excel in the Estrie” essay challenge;
- B. this essay is my original work;
- C. all entries become the property of Townshippers' Association and will not be returned;
- D. I retain the copyright to my work, and I grant Townshippers' Association and/or PAJ Eastern Townships permission to publish all or part of the submitted essay and to use my name and photograph to publicize the winning entries, all without royalty or other consideration.
- E. I grant the association permissions to publish, reproduce, edit, and/or modify, distribute, transmit, display, store, translate, create derivative works from and otherwise use my essay entry.
- F. my entry will become the property of Townshippers' and PAJ Eastern Townships once it is submitted and will not be returned.

Student Signature

Date

If under 18 years old: Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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ENTRY & GUIDELINES

Submit your entry for one of the two categories (written or video).

There are **two parts** to this challenge, both must be included in the essay:

Part 1) **Tell us about your experience as a member of the region's English-speaking community:**

- Did you overcome any obstacles on your path to graduation? Discover anything about yourself and your abilities along the way? Discover anything interesting about the region that makes you want to learn more?

Part 2) **Tell us about how you see your future in the region:**

- Where will you continue your studies? What program have you signed up for? How do you see yourself in that career field, five years from now, living and working in the Townships?

WRITTEN ESSAYS

- Minimum of 500 words to a maximum of 600 words, have a title, include the word count.
- Entries must be typed using an 11 or 12-point font.
- Entries must be submitted in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format.

VIDEO ESSAYS

- Entry must not exceed three minutes in length.
- Video can be shot using any kind of equipment provided the orientation is landscape/horizontal.
- Entries must be submitted via **Google Drive** or **YouTube link**.

All submissions must be original work. Each essay must be submitted along with a completed **entry form** to PAJ@townshippers.org with "Excel in the Estrie entry" in the subject line.

Submissions that do not meet the requirements or that are received after the deadline will not be considered.

Townshippers' Association/PAJ Eastern Townships collects your information for the purpose of this contest. All entries become the property of Townshippers' Association and will not be returned; you will be notified if your essay has been selected as winner. The names of winners will be announced via Townshippers' Association's Facebook and Twitter accounts, local newspaper columns and at its Annual General Meeting.

Entrants grant Townshippers' Association and/or PAJ Eastern Townships permission to publish all or part of the submitted essay and to use the entrants name and photograph to publicize the winning entries, all without royalty or other consideration.

INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS

Beth Vanasse
PAJ Eastern Townships
Migration Agent
PAJ@townshippers.org
819-566-5717 | 1-866-566-5717

AWARD PARTNERS

The cash prize is made possible each year through the generous support of partners, which in 2021-2022 included: Canada, Quebec, Cass Funeral Homes, NAV Canada, Champlain Regional College, and Stanstead College.

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ENTRY FORM

Essay entries can be completed online at www.townshippers.org/Essay or by using this form. If completed by hand, please print clearly. Completed entries can be submitted by e-mail to PAJ@townshippers.org (with Excel in the Estrie! in the subject line), mailed or delivered to:

Excel in the Estrie!
c/o Townshippers' Association
3355 College
Sherbrooke, QC J1M 0B8.

For more information please contact PAJ@townshippers.org or call 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Full Name	Age
Address	
City/Town	Postal Code
E-mail	Daytime telephone

First official language spoken:

- French
- English
- Other; specify _____

Language spoken at home:

- French
- English
- Other; specify _____

High school you attend:

- Alexander Galt Regional High School
- Massey-Vanier High School
- Richmond Regional High School
- Bishop's College School
- Stanstead College
- Home school
- Other (explain): _____

Have you received your letter(s) of acceptance(s) to a post-secondary institution? Yes Not yet
Please note winners will be required to provide proof of application before claiming their award.

- If yes, from which school(s) did you receive a letter of acceptance?

Name of a parent or legal guardian: _____

Provide two ways to contact your parent or guardian (e-mail, daytime telephone, etc.)

E-mail	Daytime telephone
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ESSAY

Explain why/how you believe you have and will Excel in the Estrie! using a video essay under 3 minutes in length, or a written essay of 500 to 600 words.

Remember, there are two parts to this challenge, both of which must be included in your essay:

Part 1) Tell us about your experience as a member of the region's English-speaking community:

- Did you overcome any obstacles on your path to graduation? Discover anything about yourself and your abilities along the way? Discover anything interesting about the region that makes you want to learn more?

Part 2) Tell us about how you see your future in the region:

- Where will you continue your studies? What program have you signed up for? How do you see yourself in that career field, five years from now, living and working in the Townships?

Remember, winning entries will be published/shared. Good luck!