

47TH ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST

TOPIC: How will Rapid Changes in Innovation, Technology, and Culture Impact our Local and Global Economy?

DEADLINE: Email submission to **connect@econclub.net** by:
Friday, January 30, 2026 at 12 p.m.

PRIZES:

First Place - \$3,000 + YMCA Teen Membership

Second Place - \$2,000 + YMCA Teen Membership

Third Place - \$1,000 + YMCA Teen Membership

Fourth Place - \$500 each (10 winners)

Winners will be notified via email in March 2026 and announced at the April 13, 2026 Econ Club Luncheon.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Designated for students who live and attend school in West Michigan.
- Essays must be 1500-2500 words in MLA format.
- Only entries sent in Word doc. or Google docs will be accepted. PDF entries will not be considered.
- Essays need to be anonymous for judging, therefore no mention of the applicant's name, school, or teacher can be on the essay.
- Cover sheets should not be included in applications.
- When submitting an entry, include application information (name, teacher, and school) in the email.
- All students who enter the contest will receive a Junior Achievement Here to Career account.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Essays will be judged on the following elements.

- Originality - all submissions must have never been published before.
- Subject Knowledge - all applicants must display a good grasp of the essay topic.
- Spelling & Grammar - proper punctuation and sentence structure must be followed.
- Essay Structure - applicants must display focus and organization within their writing.
- Reputable Sources - all submissions must include a bibliography with at least three sources.
- The use of any AI, chatbots, or similar technologies is strictly prohibited



*Entries that do not meet the essay requirements or judging criteria will be disqualified.

*By entering the 47th Annual Essay Contest, applicants give full publishing rights to The Econ Club for six months following the awards luncheon. The winners' essays may be published on The Econ Club's website and social platforms.

Thank You to Our Essay Contest Partners



For more information, visit our website.

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