

The Ocean County Board of Commissioners Presents:

Celebrating our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ocean County  
Essay Contest for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students

General Rules and Regulations

1. The contest is open to all 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, residing or attending school in Ocean County.
2. To complete your essay, please answer the following prompt:

*"As we celebrate the 175th anniversary of our county, what does the future of our county hold, and how can we preserve what matters most while embracing change?"*

3. Your essay should be between 200 to 250 words. It should be typed, double-spaced, using a standard 12-point font (e.g., Times New Roman); submitted in a digital format(word document or PDF) with a cover page that includes the student's name, grade, applicable teacher(Social Studies/History), and school on a cover page that precedes the essay.
4. The essay must be attached to an email submitted to [kkosa@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:kkosa@co.ocean.nj.us) no later than 5PM on November 1, 2025. In the file name, include your name, the name of the school, and township the entry is from. Your subject line should read: "175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ocean County Essay Contest Submission". The student contact information/release form should also be attached to the email. We cannot accept any submissions without this form.
5. Essays will be judged by panel on the following categories: **Clarity and Organization, Depth of Insight, Historical Accuracy, Creativity, and Writing Quality.**
6. By virtue of submission, the participant gives permission to the Ocean County Board of Commissioners to publish the work (including but not limited to) the respective County Facebook pages for publicity once chosen for a prize. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes will be awarded.
7. Prizes are as follows: Gift Cards to Barnes and Noble in the amounts of: \$175 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$100 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, \$75 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Winners will receive notice if they won by email. They will be invited to receive their prize at a future Ocean County Board of Commissioners meeting, to be determined. All winners will be asked to participate in a reception at a later time to celebrate their accomplishments, to be announced. Your essay will be read at both events.
8. Terms and conditions subject to change without notice.
9. Decision of judges is final.
10. For more information or any other questions, please contact: Kristen Kosa at [kkosa@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:kkosa@co.ocean.nj.us).

Celebrating our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Ocean County Essay Contest

Student Contact Information/Facebook Release

Student First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade and Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

The participants' parent/guardian must sign and agree to the below statement:

"By submitting an entry to the Ocean County Board of Commissioner's essay contest, participants and their guardians consent to the publication of the student's first name and school (including but not limited to) on official Ocean County Government Facebook pages, to be determined. These details will be shared as part of the contest's promotion. By entering the contest, participants agree to this publicity and acknowledge that their information may be publicly displayed in connection with the contest."

Parent/Guardian printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOLS:

Celebrating our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:  
Ocean County Essay Contest for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> Graders

Dear Principal,

We are thrilled to invite your 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students to participate in the Ocean County 175th Anniversary Essay Contest, hosted by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners. This is a unique opportunity for your students to reflect on the past and future of our county while developing their writing skills. We encourage you to share this exciting contest with your students as they consider what lies ahead for Ocean County.

The essay prompt is: "As we celebrate the 175th anniversary of our county, what does the future of our county hold, and how can we preserve what matters most while embracing change?" This prompt encourages students to think critically about the future of our community and how we can protect our county's most cherished aspects while moving forward. Essays should be between 200 to 250 words, typed, and double-spaced using a 12-point font (e.g., Times New Roman). The essay must be submitted digitally as a Word document or PDF with a cover page that includes the student's name, grade, teacher (Social Studies/History), and school.

Essays should be emailed to [kkosa@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:kkosa@co.ocean.nj.us) no later than 5PM on November 1, 2025. The subject line of the email should read: "175th Anniversary of Ocean County Essay Contest Submission". In addition to the essay, students must attach their contact information/release form. Please note that we cannot accept submissions without this form.

The essays will be judged on clarity, organization, depth of insight, historical accuracy, creativity, and writing quality. Prizes will be awarded to the top three essays, with gift certificates to a Barnes & Noble in the amounts of \$175 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$100 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and \$75 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Winners will be notified via email and invited to receive their prizes at an Ocean County Board of Commissioners meeting. A reception will be planned to celebrate the winners and their achievements, to be determined. Your essay will be read at both events.

We look forward to reading your students' insightful reflections on the future of Ocean County and how we can preserve its rich history while embracing change. For more information or any questions, please contact Kristen Kosa at [kkosa@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:kkosa@co.ocean.nj.us).

Sincerely,  
The Ocean County Board of Commissioners