



**2020 Essay Prompt:**

"Identify an issue that you would like to learn more about as a member of a U.S. Foreign Service family living in (name of country; the U.S. qualifies too). Explain why this issue is important to you, how you will learn more about it and what you would do with this information. Consider how the Foreign Service lifestyle has stimulated your interest and your ability to understand it."

**Deadline:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020

**Prizes:**

- Three prizes in the Middle School Category: 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$500 2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$300 3<sup>rd</sup> place: \$150
- Three prizes in the High School Category: 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$800 2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$500 3<sup>rd</sup> place: \$300
- All winners will be honored at the Youth Awards Ceremony in the summer 2020.

**Eligibility:**

- Any FSYP member under age 19, excluding those whose parents are FSYP Board members or employees. FSYP family membership dues must be current as of April 1, 2020 for your application to be considered. To join FSYP please see our website at [www.fsyf.org](http://www.fsyf.org)
- A contestant may submit only one entry per contest.

**Use of Essay**

- Essays will become the property of FSYP and/or Jim McGrath, ReMax Premier. Essays may be posted to FSYP, McGrath or State Department websites or appear in FSYP publications or publicity. Winners' names will appear in related newsletters, publicity, and announcements.

**Essay Specifications:**

- Written in English with a word count not exceeding 1,000, excluding name, title and list of sources.
- Include author's name, a title, page numbers and a list of source materials, if applicable.
- Double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font (or equivalent), and with 1" margin on all sides.
- Be accompanied by a completed and signed entry form.

**Judging Criteria:**

- **Subject matter:** Relevance to the designated topic; original or arresting subject, quality of insight and thought; unity of theme; imaginative imagery and concrete detail.
- **Organization:** Arrangement of material; clarity of description or argument; management of transitions.
- **Grammar and style:** Command of the written language.
- **Presentation:** Did you follow the contest rules about length, double spacing, font size, etc? Did you cite your source materials if applicable?

**Submissions:**

- The Entry Form and essay must be submitted by the deadline by attaching them to an email to: [fsyf@fsyf.org](mailto:fsyf@fsyf.org) Include in the e-mail subject line "Essay Contest -- Entrant's Name".

**About the Sponsor:** Jim McGrath, Associate Broker, ReMax Premier, is a long-time sponsor of the FSYP Essay Contest. His parents Ed and Peg McGrath raised their family traveling the world in the Foreign Service for over 30 years. In their honor, Jim supports FSYP in recognition of the sacrifices that Foreign Service families make to represent our country abroad. Jim is a Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Lifetime Top Producer for 25 years. He continues to offer personal care and service specific to the needs of Foreign Service families. [www.JimMcGrathRealEstate.com](http://www.JimMcGrathRealEstate.com)



2020 FSYP Essay Contest
Sponsored by Jim McGrath, ReMax Premier
Guidelines & Entry Form



ENTRY FORM

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Male [ ] Female

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Post: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Agency of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

I am entering (check one): [ ] Middle School Essay Contest [ ] High School Essay Contest

Title of Essay: \_\_\_\_\_

Word Count: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Honor Statement:

This essay represents my own work. I am eligible to participate in the FSYP Essay Contest. I understand that my essay will become the property of FSYP to use at its discretion, that it will not be returned to me, and that the judges' decisions are final. An electronic Signature is acceptable. Example: /s/ John Doe.

Student's Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Permission:

I agree to allow the Foreign Service Youth Foundation and Jim McGrath, ReMax Premier to use and/or publish the essay that I have submitted to the FSYP Essay Contest, and to use my child's name to identify the author of the essay. I release FSYP and Jim McGrath, ReMax Premier from any claims that occur in connection with the use of the original essay. I have read the foregoing and fully understand the contents thereof. An electronic Signature is acceptable. Example: /s/ John Doe.

Name of Parent/Guardian (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_