



Soroptimist International 2020 Essay Contest

[Soroptimist International](#) is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. Soroptimist Clubs in Connecticut are members of the [Connecticut Suffrage Centennial Commission](#).

Open to Connecticut High School Students

Subject of Essay:

On August 18th 1920, the United States Constitution was amended to declare that the right to vote may not be denied on the basis of sex – a landmark decision that effectively enfranchised millions of women across the nation. In 2020 we will celebrate 100 years since women finally achieved the right to vote in the United States of America after many years of struggle. This was a major milestone reached on the road towards gender equality.

Gradually over these past 100 years additional progress towards gender equality has been made, however there are still many areas of inequality to be addressed.

In your essay identify at least one area of women's social, economic, educational, political and/or daily life, which has been improved by the right to vote. Describe what further changes are needed in order for full gender equality to be achieved. Finally, imagine life 100 years from now and describe how this area might be better for women who are living in 2120.

Eligibility and Rules:

Students age 13 yrs. to 18 yrs. who are attending any High School in the State of Connecticut are eligible to enter.

Essays must be between 500 and 600 words typed, and submitted by email between January 1st and January 15th 2020. Entries submitted before or after these dates will not be considered.

The essay and completed cover sheet should be attached to an email addressed to the one Soroptimist International club from the list below which is geographically closest to the entrant's high school.

Entries will be judged based on overall quality of the essay, how well it addresses the topic, and creativity of thought regarding the future.

Each entry will be reviewed by Judges who will not know the identity of the author. Decisions of the Judges will be final.

Prizes will be awarded locally by Soroptimist International clubs. In addition, one essay from each club will be selected for presentation and recognition at a statewide International Women's Day Celebration on Sunday afternoon, March 8, 2020 at the Chowder Pot Restaurant in Hartford.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Birthdate:

High School:

Year in School:

Pick the one Soroptimist International Club that is geographically closest to your school from the list below:

Soroptimist International of Greater Bridgeport	email: sigreaterbridgeport@soroptimist.net
Soroptimist International of CT River Valley (Middletown)	email: siconnecticutrivervalley@soroptimist.net
Soroptimist International of CT Shoreline (New London)	email: siconnecticutshoreline@soroptimist.net
Soroptimist International of Farmington Valley (Simsbury)	email: sifarmingtonvalley@soroptimist.net
Soroptimist International of Greater Hartford	email: sigreaterhartford@soroptimist.net
Soroptimist International of Meriden	email: simeriden@soroptimist.net
Soroptimist International of Greater Waterbury	email: sigreaterwaterbury@soroptimist.net
Soroptimist International of Willimantic	email: siwillimantic@soroptimist.net

Send an email, with your essay and completed entry form attached to the email address listed above for that club. Entries will only be accepted from January 1st through January 15th 2020.

Have Fun Imagining and Writing This Essay! Use Your Creativity!

Good Luck!!!

Essay (*type your essay in the space below*)

The following must be discussed in your essay:

- **Identify at least one area of women's social, economic, educational, political and/or daily life which has been improved by the right to vote.**
- **Describe what further changes are needed in order for full gender equality to be achieved.**
- **Finally, imagine life 100 years from now and describe how this area might be better for women who are living in 2120.**

