

The Dr Don Brearley Genealogical Essay Prize

\$500

Student Family History Paper Competition

Guide for Students

The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) is offering an annual prize to an Ontario secondary school student registered in grades 11 or 12 in the Toronto District School Board in the fall of 2009. There are many reasons for this prize:

- to encourage student interest in history, particularly local history
- to encourage student interest in their community and the people who formed it
- to encourage student interest in family history
- to help students learn research methods.

Write a paper on the family history of an individual who is no longer living but who did live in your community. The person may be anybody – one of your ancestors, one of the early settlers in your community, someone who became famous, or someone who was killed in one of the world wars – but you should give a reason why you chose that person. The paper is not about just the individual but about that individual in his or her family. You should discuss at least three generations of which the individual is one. Because of privacy laws, you should not discuss any living person.

You must do research and you must cite the sources of your research. The sources may be personal interviews, from the internet, or original documents but at least some of your sources must be original documents. You are not required to meet genealogical standards but your citations should be good enough to convince the reader of the accuracy of your story and to enable the reader to go to your sources. If your paper is published, we will ask your assistance in acquiring copies of original documents, photographs, or other material that can be used to illustrate your paper.

You must do the research and you must do the writing. You may ask for advice as to where to find research material; your local OGS Branch would be an excellent source of that advice. You may also consult with your history or English teachers regarding style.

The paper must be from 1 000 to 5 000 words, typed, double spaced. We prefer electronic versions, in WordPerfect, Word, or pdf only. Your name and contact information should appear on the title page only, so that we can strip the title page off to have your paper judged anonymously.

If your paper is a course requirement, submit as directed by your teacher, who will pass excellent papers on to the OGS. If it is not a course requirement, you may submit your paper directly to the OGS by e-mailing to <provoffice@ogs.on.ca> with subject line “Secondary School Paper Competition”. We must receive it by 5 pm on 2010 Feb 26.

OGS judges will read the papers and award the prize to one paper, provided it meets acceptable standards. The winner will receive \$500 and a one-year Student membership in OGS. The winning paper will be published in *Families*, the OGS quarterly journal. There may be runners-up, who will receive a one-year Student membership in OGS and will have their paper published in *Families*. By submitting your paper to this competition, you are giving OGS the right to publish it.

If your paper is accepted for publication, you may, in co-operation with a member of the editorial board, be asked to make some modifications to fit the style of *Families*. If you submitted in pdf, you will be asked for a copy in Word or WordPerfect.

The winner and runners-up will be invited to attend the opening ceremonies of the OGS annual conference, the evening of Friday, 2010 May 14 in Toronto, to receive their prizes.