

## The LasikPlus “My Vision” Essay Scholarship Contest Guidelines

The LasikPlus “My Vision” Essay Scholarship Contest (the “Essay Scholarship Contest”) is designed to offer scholarship opportunities to recognize outstanding college students who serve their communities and to help them reach their academic goals.

**Please carefully read all of the information below. You will find everything that you need to successfully enter the Essay Scholarship Contest on these pages.**

These guidelines and rules provide all of the information necessary for you to construct an impressive, original, and interesting essay about how your academic studies will contribute to your personal and professional vision and goals. Please discuss any community service or extracurricular activities in which you are involved that relate to your goals as well. We are looking to reward college students who are pursuing continuing education to bring their personal vision to fruition while demonstrating a commitment to serving the communities that support them.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this contest. We appreciate the support, and are looking forward to reading each and every submission.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

#### Entrants must:

- Be a full-time freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student currently enrolled at an accredited university in the U.S. or its territories.
- Have a minimum 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Be a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States or its territories, or otherwise have a student visa valid for the entire duration of the specific Essay Scholarship Contest entered.

### DATES

- One winner will be selected per Essay Scholarship Contest.

### HOW TO APPLY

- Entrants must submit their essay electronically by sending it, via email, to [scholarship@lasikplus.com](mailto:scholarship@lasikplus.com). To be eligible for consideration, each entry must include the essay, the entrant’s contact information (including, at a minimum, the entrants contact information, including the entrants full name, the name of the University of College of enrollment, current major, email address and phone number where the entrant can be contacted.
- The winner will be selected from all of the eligible entries received, based upon evaluation of the essay. Essays will be judged based on the following five categories:
  1. Spelling and Grammar
  2. Contest theme relevancy
  3. Focus on the topic
  4. Content logicality and relevancy
  5. Adherence to essay guidelines
- The winner will be informed by both email and phone call.

## ESSAY GUIDELINES

- The essay must be written in **English**.
- The essay can be no more than 700 words, but must be a minimum of 500 words. Citations and bibliography are not included in the word count.
- The essay must be **double spaced**, and the **font type and size must be Times New Roman, 12 point**.
- The essay content must include these parts; an **abstract**, an **opening**, at least **3 paragraphs in support**, and a **closing**.
- A bibliography or references, if applicable, should be included on a new page following the closing paragraph.
- There are no restrictions on the topic and genre of the essay, but the essay may not contain offensive or obscene material. This restriction includes, but is not limited to, any negative language which is deemed to be targeted towards individuals of a specific race, religion, country of origin, gender, or sexual orientation.
- The essay must show the entrant's desire and ability to bring their vision to life through continuing education and community involvement.
- The essay must be the personal, individual work of a single entrant.
- Any indications of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of deception or dishonesty in the essay or with regard to the contest in general will result in immediate disqualification of the offending entrant's essay.
- Each entrant may only submit one essay per contest. If more than one is submitted, all except the first (based on the email timestamp) will be disqualified.
- The essay must be submitted as a **PDF document** via the email: [scholarship@lasikplus.com](mailto:scholarship@lasikplus.com).

## PRIZE

- The prize is \$2,500 toward tuition, fees, books, room and board, or any other education use related to the pursuit of continuing education.
- Taxes: All contest winnings are subject to Federal Income Tax. The winning entrant must provide his or her Social Security Number or other Tax ID for the sole purpose of satisfying governmental tax requirements. Applicant will provide LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus with a signed Form W-9. Accordingly, a Form 1099 will be issued at the end of the year in which the prize was awarded. **Winning applicant will be responsible for paying any applicable taxes on the prize.** Failure to assist LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus, or its directors, officers, employees, contractors or agents ("LCA Agents"), in its compliance with federal and state tax law by filling out any required forms will immediately disqualify the entrant.
- LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus will contact the winner by email and phone. The winner will have 14 days to respond via phone or email to accept their selection, confirm their personal information, and complete the required legal documentation prior to being awarded the winnings. If the winner does not complete the above, he or she will forfeit his or her selection as the winner and another winner will be chosen.

## PRIVACY STATEMENT<sup>1</sup>

- Upon submission of an essay, the submission becomes the property of LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus
- Entrants grant LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus the right, unless prohibited by law, to use their names, cities and states of residence, pictures, and likenesses in conjunction with the names of their colleges and their

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.billofrightsintstitute.org/engage/students-programs-events/scholarship/we-the-students-rules-and-regulations/>

departments within those colleges, and without compensation, for the express purpose of advertising and publicity of LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus and the Essay Scholarship Contest in any and all media, now or ever after.

- Entrants also grant LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus permission to use their name and other entry details to further its educational mission as stated above.

## **AVAILABILITY DISCLAIMER<sup>2</sup>**

- The administration of the Essay Scholarship Contest, including, without limitation, determining the eligibility of an entrant or essay, selecting of a judge, evaluating any submitted essay, and awarding of the prizes, is within the sole and absolute discretion of LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus. No student or teacher, or person or organization related thereto, has a right to appeal, contest, dispute, or otherwise challenge any aspect of the administration of the Essay Scholarship Contest, and any decision of LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus is final in all respects.
- No responsibility is assumed for incorrect or inaccurate essay information whether caused by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized by this contest or by any human error which may occur in the processing of entries into the Essay Scholarship Contest. Neither LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus, nor the LCA Agents, is responsible for lost, late, misdirected, or delayed entries or any problems or technical malfunctions of any telephone network or lines, computer on-line systems, servers or providers, computer equipment, software, failure of players on account of technical problems, or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any website or combination thereof.
- LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus reserves the right of final interpretation, including the right to cancel or modify the Essay Scholarship Contest in the event that an insufficient number of entries are received which meet the minimum evaluation criteria.
- If, for any reason, the Essay Scholarship Contest is not capable of running as planned, including infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes beyond the control of LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus, or the LCA Agents, which corrupts or affects the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of this contest, or for any reason LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus deems it necessary, LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus reserves the right to cancel, modify, or delay the Contest.

## **NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

- In administering the Essay Scholarship Contest, LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus will not discriminate in any manner, including on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, disability, nationality, or ethnic origin.



The contest sponsored by LCA-Vision, Inc./LasikPlus, America's #1 LASIK provider, with 1.5 million combined laser vision correction procedures have been performed by some of the most experienced LASIK surgeons in the field and is dedicated to ensuring patients receive the most appropriate treatment for their vision correction needs.

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<sup>2</sup> Idem

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **When can I apply for the scholarship?**

The Essay Scholarship Contest may be run up to four times per year. Entries are accepted within the dates specified for each contest. Deadline dates can be found on our website [www.lasikplus.com/scholarship](http://www.lasikplus.com/scholarship).

### **Is there a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) requirement?**

All entrants must have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

### **Do I have to be a United States Citizen or Permanent Resident to apply for a scholarship?**

All entrants must be U.S. citizens or legal permanent resident of the United States or its territories, or otherwise have a student visa valid for the entire duration of the specific Essay Scholarship Contest entered.

### **Is there a fee to apply?**

No, there is no fee required to apply for the Essay Scholarship Contest.

### **Are paper applications accepted?**

All essays must be submitted as a PDF version, and sent with a valid entry to email address: [scholarship@lasikplus.com](mailto:scholarship@lasikplus.com). No paper entries or essays will be accepted.

### **When will the winner be announced and how do I find out if I am the winner?**

After each contest deadline, the review process will begin. The length of time to review will depend on how many entries are submitted. The winner will be contacted by both email and phone. The winner must reply to either the email or call within 14 days to confirm their personal information and provide required legal documentation in order to claim the prize. If the winner does not respond or supply the required legal documentation within 14 days, he or she will forfeit the prize and another winner will be chosen and contacted. If this second winner also forfeits the prize, no prize will be awarded for that specific contest.

### **What does the scholarship pay for?**

The scholarship may be used for tuition, fees, books, room and board, or any other educational use related to the pursuit of continuing education.