

**The Classical Association of Virginia**  
announces  
**The 2009 CLASSICAL ESSAY CONTEST**

- The contest is open to students in the public and private middle and high schools of Virginia whose teachers are **current** members of the Classical Association of Virginia.
- Essays shall be submitted **in English** on the following topics in the following divisions:
  - **First Year Latin** (Division A for grades 6-8; Division B for grades 9-12): *Pater Materque Familias*
  - **Second Year Latin:** *Diem Obiit: Death in Ancient Rome*
  - **Third Year Latin:** *Oro Vos Faciatis: Campaigning in Ancient Rome*
  - **Advanced Latin** (Latin III and above\*)::
    - **Lyric:** *Mens avet vagari—Recondita quies: Rest and Restlessness in Catullus' Carmina*
    - **Ovid:** *Non ego sum pastor: Apollo's plea to Daphne*
    - **Vergil:** *Sunt lacrimae rerum: Art, Emotion, and Experience in the Aeneid*

\*N.B.: Students who are in their third year of Latin may choose to do the regular, general third year topic or one of the advanced topics. This is so that we do not prevent students who are in their third year and doing one of the advanced authors from writing on the author they are currently studying.

N.B. Students at the advanced level may also submit essays in more than one category

- Essays should be **roughly 1000 words, typed double space on single sides** of the page.
- The first page of the essay may include a title. The **student's name should not appear on any page of the essay**, and the **pages of the essay should be numbered**.
- Each entry must come with a **COVER PAGE** that shall include:
  - name and home address of the contestant;
  - name and address (with city or district) of the school;
  - name of the teacher;
  - year of Latin studied in 2008-2009 (First, Second, etc.);
  - student's grade level.

- No help may be received from any person in the research, preparation, and/or writing of the essay. Books and electronic sources may (indeed, generally should) be consulted, provided that all research is completed by the student and **proper acknowledgement** of intellectual property is given. A **list of sources and works cited** should be provided at the end of the essay on a separate page. A good on-line source for help in the formal preparation of an essay is Purdue's online writing lab (OWL), which can be found at:

[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_mla.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html).

- Teachers, of course, are allowed to guide students toward the types of reference material to consult, and provide general instruction on the writing of a good essay. However, teachers **must not** provide any editorial feedback to the students. That is, they should not be reading and commenting on their students' essays before the final form in which they will be submitted.
- **Essays should present a clear, coherent synthesis of material researched.** A **lively and well-organized essay** is better than a laundry list of facts. Judges look for verve and imagination in the writing, and not merely quantity of research. To this end, **it has been the policy to accept essays that are closer to creative writing exercises than to the traditional expository essay.** It is to be understood, however, that the same amount of factual content and critical thought must be in evidence in whatever form the essay takes. It should be noted as well that what appears to be a creative approach to writing an essay begins to look less and less creative when essay after essay is written in the same pattern.
- The **fee is \$2.00 per student.** Teachers who are not members of CAV should send their **dues of \$12.00** with the entrance fee. Make **checks payable to the *Classical Association of Virginia*.** Ineligible entries will be discarded.
- **Please note** that by entering this contest you are giving the Classical Association of Virginia consent to publish your name in its official publications.
- The postmark deadline is **February 15, 2009.** Entries postmarked after February 15 will be discarded. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the Spring meeting. All entries should be sent to:

**Patrick Bradley**  
Director of CAV Classical Essay Contest  
Rockbridge County High School  
143 Greenhouse Road  
Lexington, VA 24450