

# WRITE TO EDUCATE



**Lansing State Journal**  
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## 2026 Write to Educate Essay Contest

LAFCU is awarding four \$5,000 scholarships,  
along with a \$500 donation to a Michigan charity.

LAFCU is seeking seniors attending high school in Michigan to participate in our annual Write to Educate essay contest. Students attending an **accredited college or university in the state of Michigan** in the Fall of 2026 should apply.

The Lansing State Journal is a community sponsor of the 2026 Write to Educate Essay Contest. This year's winner(s) essays will be published in the Lansing State Journal.

### Essay Guidelines:

- Write a **one-page essay of 500 words**  
(*Essays under 500 words or longer than one page will not be scored.*)
- Essays must be:
  - Typed in **Times New Roman**
  - **12-point font**
  - **Single-spaced**
  - **One-inch margins**
- **Do not include your name or school name** anywhere in the essay

\*Employees of LAFCU and their immediate family members are not eligible.

### Topic:

Describe a problem facing your community and explain how you would help address or solve it. Discuss the impact your solution could have on others.

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## **Grading Criteria:**

Essays will be scored on a **1–10 point scale** based on:

- Following all contest rules and instructions
- Quality and clarity of content
- Proper spelling and grammar

## **Submissions Accepted:**

February 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026

Please upload entries to:

- [lafcu.com/writetoeducate](https://lafcu.com/writetoeducate) (if you are under 18, please complete page 3 of the application and mail to the address below)

or

- Mail entries to:  
LAFCU  
Attn: Marketing Department  
P.O. Box 26188  
Lansing, MI 48909

\* If mailing, please complete and mail the attached application with your essay.

## **Winners:**

The winners will be selected by Friday, April 24, 2026. A copy of a current high school student identification card or transcript will validate the winner's eligibility.

## **Community Donation:**

As part of our mission of people helping people, LAFCU will donate \$500 to a charitable organization in Michigan on your behalf if you are selected as a 2026 Write to Educate scholarship recipient. Charitable organizations must be a registered 501(c)(3) within the state of Michigan and provide proof upon selection.

## **Awarding of the Scholarship:**

The winner must be attending college in the state of Michigan and provide proof of attendance by college ID or enrollment confirmation. Students must have a valid Student ID number as the funds will be submitted to the respective college in the winner's name.

Any unused portion of the scholarship after two years from the date of issue may be returned to the grantor.

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## Write to Educate Essay Contest Application

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Current High School \_\_\_\_\_

What grade are you in? \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Write to Educate essay contest?

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a LAFCU member? (not required to apply) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

What college or university in will you be attending in the Fall of 2026?

\_\_\_\_\_

If chosen as a recipient, what charitable organization would like us to donate to on our behalf? Charitable organizations must be a registered 501(c)(3) within the state of Michigan and provide proof upon selection.

Charity Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Charity Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Charity Phone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this charitable organization meaningful to you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Applicant's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

\*By signing this application, you are stating that you are the author of the essay submitted and the material is not plagiarized in any manner. You are also giving LAFCU and the Lansing State Journal permission to use your name and/or photograph in marketing, media, and promotional materials. Signature may be verified upon winning.

\*Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

\*If the student is under 18 years of age, the parent/guardian will need to sign giving LAFCU permission to use the student's name and/or photograph in marketing, media and promotional materials. Signature may be verified upon winning.

\*Employees of LAFCU and their immediate family members are excluded\*