

Lifting Up  
Westchester  
2022 Student Essay Contest

What Role Does  
Housing Play in  
Influencing Our Future?

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Essay Contest**

Lifting Up Westchester, a nonprofit agency committed to helping individuals experiencing homelessness and hunger achieve self-sufficiency, announces their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Essay Contest. All 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders who attend school in Westchester are invited to reflect on the role housing plays in influencing our collective future.

This year's essay invites students to think about the role housing plays not only in our individual futures, but the future of our community. Did you know that there are tens of thousands of Westchester residents living in homes where their tenancy is unstable? Did you know that there are 1,800 individuals living in shelters every night in Westchester County? Did you know that even more individuals and families have to "couch surf" or live within overcrowded quarters to have a roof over their head? Did you know there are negative physical and mental health as well as educational consequences to experiencing inadequate housing and all forms of homelessness?

Students are asked to consider how the Pandemic has exacerbated this problem for a much broader socio-economic group who have lost jobs or had salaries reduced at the same time rents and mortgages have risen faster than income and earnings. Stable, adequate housing is a critical foundation on which all other individual and family success can be built. This year we are asking students, how can we help ensure adequate housing for all of our neighbors? Students can enter the contest [here](#) through a [dedicated portal](#).

**Twelve Prizes will be awarded in total including first, second and third prizes in each of the four categories:**

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> and ESL students**

- **1<sup>st</sup> prize - \$500**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> prize - \$250**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> prize - \$100**

**STUDENTS CAN ENTER BEGINNING OCTOBER 14 THROUGH [THIS DEDICATED PORTAL](#)  
ESSAYS ARE DUE JANUARY 17, 2022, BY 5:00 PM**

For Full Contest Details Visit [Lifting Up Westchester](#)

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*This contest has been funded in loving memory of Beth Massey Rubens,  
A lifelong teacher, tutor, and mentor with a particular love for language arts.*