

GARAVENTA CENTER

for Catholic Intellectual Life and American Culture

2024/25 High School Essay Contest

Students that are current juniors in qualifying Catholic high schools may submit original essays based on the prompt:

“Longing(s)”

The deepest longing(s) in your life...your heart’s desire...your passion for being...whatever words we use, we believe that education should be transformational. Have you had a glimpse of your deepest longing(s)? Maybe it is more than a glimpse and has features you can describe. If not, how would you go about discovering it? How might learning to recognize and develop your gifts while you are in high school, and later in college, aid you in this journey of discovery?

CONTEST RULES:

- Essays should be no more than 1,000 words, typed, and double-spaced.
- Don’t shy away from emotional “oomph.” Be honest, even playful.
- Each essay should include a personal title (do not use the contest theme as a title) on a separate cover page which includes author’s name, email and permanent mailing address, as well as the high school name, sponsoring teacher’s name and email.
- Student and high school name must not appear on the essay pages, only on the cover sheet.
- Students who make submissions must be current juniors.
- Open to qualifying schools - see website for info.
- Each school may submit up to four essays, each sent as a separate Word documents.
- All submissions must be Word docs sent via email to garaventa@up.edu (no PDFs).

\$500 AND \$250 AWARDS

Two top prizes and three honorable mentions will be awarded. Authors of the top two essays will receive \$500 each and three honorable mention winners will receive \$250 each. These are cash awards for the contest, not scholarships.



**Submission deadline:
Friday, February 14, 2025**



For questions or more information contact us at garaventa@up.edu or (503) 943-7702.