

DEADLINE: JANUARY 9, 2026

We welcome you to submit an application and essay to the Avalon Theaters 2025 Essay Content. We look forward to scoring the first 20 eligible essays and awarding \$2500 in cash prizes annually to four winners from DC public and charter schools at a ceremony to be held at the Avalon Theatre on February 2, 2026.

ESSAY SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete this application online
theavalon.org/cinema-in-the-classroom-essay-contest/
 -OR-




Upload your submission electronically by printing, scanning, and emailing this form and your essay as a PDF to
rdupas@theavalon.org.

Subject Heading:

Essay Contest Submission
 (Your Name) (Your School)

All submitted essays must reflect original student work. We use digital tools to evaluate the authenticity of each entry. Any essay found to rely significantly on AI-generated content will be disqualified. Students are encouraged to write in their own voice and demonstrate independent thought throughout their submission.

PRIZES:

-  First Place: **\$1,000**
-  Second Place: **\$750**
-  Third Place: **\$500**
-  Honorable Mention: **\$250**

The award check will be made payable to the award recipient unless the recipient requests that the check be issued to a parent or guardian.

NAME

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME

HOME ADDRESS

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT NUMBER

CITY/STATE/ZIP

HIGH SCHOOL

GRADE

EMAIL

HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS

STUDENT'S CONTACT NUMBER

SPONSORING TEACHER

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE ESSAY CONTEST?

Guidance Counselor Y N
 Teacher Y N
 Avalon Theatre Y N

Social Media Y N
 Family/Friend Y N
 Other

Avalon Scholarship Essay Contest 2025-2026

Instruction Sheet for Judges

The rubric below is intended to provide you with a framework for scoring essay submissions. Each essay is scored on 5 categories out of a total of 50 points. Criteria 1-4 are graded from 1-9 points, and Criteria 5 is graded from 1-14 points to give extra weight to personal style, creativity, and skill.

	1-3 POINTS	4-6 POINTS	7-9 POINTS
1. DOES THE APPLICANT SUMMARIZE THE FILM?	The film summary fails to meet the stated criteria of being clear, descriptive, and evidenced with significant reflections.	There is an attempt to summarize the film but the essay lacks clarity, description, and reflection.	There is a clear and descriptive summary of the complete film with significant reflections.
2. DOES THE APPLICANT REFLECT ON ONE OR MORE FILM ELEMENTS THAT HELPED TELL THE STORY IN THE FILM? (VISUAL STYLE AND APPROACH OF THE FILM, CAMERA ANGLES AND TECHNIQUES, DIRECTOR'S VISION, LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE, ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE)	The applicant provides little to no support for one of more of the stated film elements.	The applicant makes a claim for one or more of the stated film elements, but they are poorly supported.	The applicant provides strong arguments in support of one or more stated film elements used to drive the film.
3. DOES THE APPLICANT EXPLAIN HOW THE FILM MADE A PERSONAL IMPACT?	The applicant provides little to no claims for personal impact, or the stated claim is weakened by little to no examples that ground their claims.	The applicant makes a claim for how the film personally impacted them, but the essay is lacking in examples that would ground their claims.	The applicant provides a strong claim for how the film personally impacted them and includes elements of the film to ground their claims.
4. DOES THE APPLICANT DESCRIBE HOW THE FILM IS NECESSARY FOR THEIR PEERS?	The applicant provides little to no claims for the film's necessity for their peer group or provides the claim with little to no supporting evidence or reference to the film.	The applicant makes a claim for how the film is necessary for their peers, but the essay is lacking in support and clarity.	The applicant provides a strong claim for how the film is necessary for their peers and supports that claim with clear references to the film.

	0-5 POINTS	6-10 POINTS	11-14 POINTS
5. PERSONAL STYLE?	The essay displays little creativity and passion for film and has many errors that interrupt the development and overall impact of the essay.	The essay shows hints of creativity and passion for film but has noticeable stylistic and/or grammatical errors.	The passion for film is clear throughout, and the essay is clearly creative with few to no errors.