

# GRADUATE ESSAY CONTEST

**Who Can Enter:** Any Dover Adult Learning Center graduate who has earned the Dover Adult High School diploma or passed the HiSET test since July 1, 2025.

**Essay Topic:** Graduating from high school can be a life-changing experience. Explain how this achievement has impacted on your self-confidence, led to a new opportunity and/or helped you create a path to economic self-sufficiency.

## **Rules for Essay:**

- Essay should be 200-500 words long; essays longer than 500 words may not be considered
- Must be your original work
- Must be clear and readable
- Clearly written on lined white paper or preferably typed on plain white paper

**Deadline:** Your essay must be received by **June 11, 2026**. The essay can be mailed to Dover Adult Learning Center, 61 Locust St., Dover, NH 03820, or emailed to: [office@doveradultlearning.org](mailto:office@doveradultlearning.org)

## **Basis for Judging:**

- Clear expression of your ideas
- Sincerity and persuasiveness
- Good development of the theme (the impact of adult education on your future)
- Adherence to “Rules for Essay”

**Selection of Winners:** Essays are judged by members of the Board of Directors for the Dover Adult Learning Center. They do not see the writers’ names.

**Do I Have to Write an Essay?** No. It is not required, but we encourage you to try it. It’s a good chance to win a cash prize and to inspire others to join adult education.

**Sharing Your Essay:** Winning essays are often very moving and have inspired others to think about going back to school. We would like to share the winning essays on our website, DALC’s social media or the newspaper! If your essay is chosen, we will be in touch with you to discuss this opportunity.

**PRIZES!** Prizes are given in the form of checks made out to the winners. We hope you use the prize money for expenses related to further schooling, but there are no actual restrictions on the use of the prize money.

- **First Prize**                   **\$200**
- **Second Prize**               **\$100**