



The Council of Irish Associations of Greater Bergen County, Inc.

Post Office Box 5113
Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621

February 16, 2021

To: Guidance Counselors:

The Council of Irish Associations of Greater Bergen County, Inc., a tax-exempt educational and charitable organization, announces the 2021 Kevin J. Duffy Memorial Scholarship essay contest. Each year, Council awards a scholarship of a thousand dollars to the winner and five hundred dollars to the second-place winner.

Open to all graduating high school seniors in Bergen County planning to attend an institution of higher learning, the essay contest is for the purpose of promoting awareness and knowledge of Irish and Irish-American culture. Three topics in Irish and Irish-American studies are provided. The applicant selects one topic for the essay. The winner will receive a thousand dollar scholarship, and the second-place winner will receive a five hundred dollar scholarship. The panel of judges is composed of educators and members of the Council. Essay winners are encouraged to participate, if possible, in the Council's annual Great Hunger Commemoration at the Bergen County Courthouse, attending the event to accept their scholarships and read their essays. In light of COVID-19 restrictions, the Great Hunger Commemoration is tentatively scheduled for the first or second Saturday of May, and may be an all-virtual event.

If there are any questions, please email: EssayContest@BergenCountyIrish.org.

Respectfully yours,

Tommy O'Reilly
President



The Council of Irish Associations of Greater Bergen County, Inc.

2021 Kevin J. Duffy Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest

In the interests of increasing awareness of Irish culture, the Council of Irish Associations of Greater Bergen County, Inc., would like to announce an essay contest for high school seniors. Since 2016, which was the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising, each annual essay contest has related to events that took place in Ireland a century prior to the contest year. The year 1921 saw the end of the Irish War of Independence, which began in 1919 and came to a truce in 1921, with a controversial treaty being drawn up by the end of the year. This treaty ultimately granted Ireland the status of a Free State but not complete independence from Great Britain, and separated six counties in Northern Ireland, which remained under British control, from the rest of the country. The following three questions deal with different aspects of Ireland's struggle for peace and freedom in the year 1921.

- *President Éamon de Valera and the Dáil Éireann (the parliament of the revolutionary Irish Republic created in 1919) sent a five-member delegation to London to negotiate a treaty with Great Britain. This delegation included notable figures like Arthur Griffiths and Michael Collins. Although this delegation ultimately accepted the treaty, it was criticized by Éamon de Valera and only narrowly ratified by the Dáil; the conflict over the treaty led to the Irish Civil War. Research and explain the pressures that both British and Irish negotiators faced in drafting and ultimately accepting this treaty. Do you believe the delegates were placed in an unfair position by de Valera, who sent them to negotiate the treaty and then rejected the treaty because it did not create an independent, unified republic?*
- *One of the key figures behind the Anglo-Irish Treaty was David Lloyd George, the Prime Minister of England. Research and explain his relationship with Ireland from the time of the 1916 Easter Rising through the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Did his attitude toward Ireland evolve? Was his leadership in England ultimately beneficial or detrimental to the Irish?*
- *The truce that ordered an end to the violence of the Irish War of Independence was signed on July 9, 1921, and went into effect on July 11 at noon. Between these two dates, violence erupted in Belfast on July 10, which came to be known as "Bloody Sunday." Research the causes of this violence, as well as the reasons that later violence continued in Belfast even after the treaty went into effect. (NOTE: This is **not** the only "Bloody Sunday" in Irish history. If you research "Bloody Sunday," be sure you are researching the correct one.)*

The winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, while the second place-winner will receive a \$500 scholarship.

Eligibility

All high school seniors residing in Bergen County, New Jersey, who intend to enter college.

Rules

The essay must be no fewer than 600 and no more than 1,250 words in length, and must be typewritten and double-spaced. Since information is so readily available on the Internet, the student must show insight and understanding of the selected topic. An attached cover sheet must include the following:

Your name and address and telephone number	Your selected college
Name and address of your high school	Topic selected (#1, 2 or 3 from list above)
Your counselor's name & telephone number	References and/or sources used

One entry per student, please. Due to COVID-19 concerns, we request that all entries be made electronically this year. The essay must be emailed no later than **April 21, 2021**. The essay must be solely the work of the entrant. The entry must include a completed cover sheet (available on the next page), as well as the essay itself, and should be sent to EssayContest@BergenCountyIrish.org.

Judging

Essays will be judged on both style and content. Judges will look for writing that is clear, factual, articulate, and logically organized. The winning essay must demonstrate an understanding of the topic. The decision of the judges will be final.



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Greater Bergen County, Inc.**

2021 Kevin J. Duffy Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest

Contestant's Name & Address & Telephone
Number:

Contestant's High School – Name & Address:

Contestant's High School Counselor – Name
& Telephone Number:

Contestant's Selected College:

Topic Selected:

References and/or Sources:
