



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

Post Office Box 5113  
Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621

February 15, 2022

To: Guidance Counselors:

The Council of Irish Associations of Greater Bergen County, Inc., a tax-exempt educational and charitable organization, announces the 2022 Kevin J. Duffy Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest. Named in memory of a past council member and president who upheld an inspiring vision of promoting Irish culture and heritage, each year the 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 may select 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](mailto:EssayContest@BergenCountyIrish.org).

Respectfully yours,

Deirdre Spollen-LaRaia, Ed.D.  
President



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

### 2022 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 1922 saw the outbreak of the Irish Civil War, as the controversial treaty that ended Ireland's War of Independence led to opposing factions within Ireland taking up arms against one another. Two of following three questions deal with different aspects of this conflict, while the other addresses an Irish literary milestone from the year 1922.

- *The Irish Civil War began on June 28, 1922, when the National Army of the Provisional Government (the precursor to the Irish Free State) attacked the Four Courts in Dublin, which was being held by the anti-Treaty Irish Republican Army. Research and examine the pressures that led to the attack on the Four Courts, and explain how it resulted in the yearlong Irish Civil War.*
- *One of the casualties of the Irish Civil War was Erskine Childers, an interesting figure in Irish history who was executed on November 20, 1922, for illegal possession of a pistol. Born to an Irish mother in England, over his lifetime he became a soldier, a sailor, an author (writing arguably the world's first spy novel, *The Riddle of the Sands*), and ultimately an Irish nationalist. Research and explain his history of involvement with British and Irish politics, including the events that led to his execution.*
- *James Joyce's famous novel *Ulysses* was published on February 2, 1922, in Paris, on Joyce's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. The novel is celebrated worldwide today—though it was attacked by censors in its time—and its detailed, painstakingly accurate depictions of real-life locations in Dublin have inspired many tourists to retrace the steps of Leopold Bloom and Stephen Dedalus, the novel's protagonists, on their 24-hour journey in Dublin covered by the novel. Despite his use of Ireland as the setting for all his fiction, however, James Joyce left Ireland in 1904, and after a final visit home in 1912, never returned to Ireland for the remaining thirty years of his life. Research and explain James Joyce's complex attitude towards Ireland, from which he found himself an "exile."*

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, with necessary attributions to sources. 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 20, 2022**. 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](mailto: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.**

**2022 Kevin J. Duffy Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest**

Contestant's Name & Address & Telephone  
Number:

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Contestant's High School – Name & Address:

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

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Contestant's Selected College:

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Topic Selected:

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References and/or Sources:

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