

March 8, 2021



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Italian Heritage and Culture Committee-NY, Inc. and the American Association of Teachers of Italian – *Società Onoraria Italica* are sponsoring an essay contest to encourage high school students to write about their study of the Italian culture and history. The winners (one for each category) will receive a monetary award of \$200 and recognition at a future special function in the fall.

This year's Italian Heritage and Culture Month theme is “*Dante 700!*”. In an essay of approximately 750 words **choose one** of the following topics:

- a) *Analyze why Dante Alighieri, the father of the Italian language, is one of the most important writers of Italian culture and literature.*
- b) *Analyze Dante's legacy and influence in the world.*

Eligibility and Procedures

1. Only students currently attending grades 9-11 are eligible to participate in this contest.
2. Each teacher is to submit the BEST essay from his or her class to Prof. Lucrezia Lindia at societaonorariait@gmail.com
3. Each essay must have a cover sheet attached with the following information: a. Student's name, b. Grade, c. School's name, d. Teacher's name, phone number, and e-mail, e. Category (native or non-native speaker, if essay is written in Italian)
4. Please do not include the name of the student on the actual essay paper.
5. In selecting this essay, which is written in English for 9th and 10th graders, and in Italian for 11th graders, the judges will consider the following guidelines:
 - a. depth of thought in the quality and presentation of ideas and development of ideas;
 - b. command of vocabulary and sentence structure appropriate for that level; and
 - c. list of references in works cited.
6. Deadline for teachers to send in their entries is **Saturday, May 1, 2021**. Essays postmarked after that date will not be considered.

Sincerely,
Lucrezia Lindia

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