



2025-2026 USSYP Scholarship Video Essay

Overview

Create a 4-minute video essay that demonstrates your knowledge, passion, and potential for civic engagement and government service. This is your opportunity to show us who you are as a future civic leader and how you plan to make a meaningful impact in your community and the state of Oregon.

Essay Options: Choose ONE of the following for your video essay:

Option 1: The Future Democracy Leader: How will you use your voice to strengthen democracy in Oregon and beyond over the next decade?

Option 2: The Problem-Solver: Identify a specific problem in your Oregon community and present your plan to address it through civic action.

Option 3: The Democracy Defender: Choose a democratic principle or constitutional right that you believe is under threat in Oregon or nationally. Explain why it matters and how you would protect it.

Option 4: The Bridge Builder: Describe how you would bring together people with opposing political views to work on a shared goal in Oregon.

Option 5: The Policy Advocate: Select a policy issue affecting Oregon that you care about. Make the case for your position as if you were testifying before the Oregon Legislature or a local government body.

Required Components:

Consider addressing the following elements in your video:

Personal Connection

- Share your personal stake in the topic or issue
- Explain why this matters to you specifically
- Connect your experiences to broader civic themes

Knowledge Demonstration

- Show your understanding of relevant government systems, processes, or institutions

- Discuss current challenges or opportunities in your chosen area
- Use appropriate civic and political terminology

Future Vision and Action Plan

- Present your concrete plans for involvement or impact
- Explain specific steps you will take
- Connect your goals to democratic values and community benefit

Call to Action or Conclusion

- Summarize your main message
- Inspire others or explain how they can get involved
- Leave viewers with a clear understanding of your civic commitment

Technical Requirements

Format & Length

- **Duration:** 4 minutes (3:45 - 4:15 acceptable range)
- **Format:** MP4, MOV, or similar standard video format
- **Quality:** Minimum 720p HD quality with clear audio

Content Guidelines

- **Original work only** - Must be your own thoughts and words
- **Appropriate language** - Professional and respectful tone
- **Authenticity valued** - Be yourself; polish is less important than genuine engagement
- **File Naming** -Name your video file: LastName_FirstName_OregonUSSYP2025

Submission Instructions

How to Submit

1. Upload your video to [2025 USSYP Folder](#).
2. If you are unable to upload please email ode.socialscience@ode.oregon.gov for alternate methods.
3. Set sharing permissions to "Anyone with the link can view"
4. Submit the shareable link through our online application portal
5. Include your name and contact information in the application form

Deadline

All video essays and complete applications must be submitted by October 13th, 2025, at 11:59 PM.