



THE CANADIAN DENTAL
HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES

CJDH  JCHD

Student Writing Competition

Essay Criteria

Eligibility

Canadian dental hygiene diploma or baccalaureate students in year 2, 3 or 4 of their program or degree-completion students.

General Criteria

The essay, an opinion piece written in either English or French, must be original, not considered for publication elsewhere, and appropriately referenced (Vancouver style). It may be written in fulfillment of a course assignment during the year (e.g., a summary of a clinical case study or community health project; an advocacy letter) or composed specifically for this competition. Only single author entries will be accepted. Students must present their essay to their program director, who will endorse the school entry or entries to go forward and will complete the required nomination form(s).

Topic of Essay

Applicants may write on a topic of their choice and must indicate under which category it falls in the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association's *Dental Hygiene Research Agenda*. For example, if the essay is based on a community health project, the relevant research agenda category might be "Access to Care and Unmet Needs" CDHA's *Dental Hygiene Research Agenda* is available online at cdha.ca/researchagenda.

Essay Title

Maximum of 12 words and must clearly describe the content of the essay. The author's name, program year, name of school, address for correspondence, and applicable research agenda category must appear on the title page.

Essay Length

Maximum 1,500 words for the body of the essay. References may be cited; they are not included in the total word count. Tables, graphs, and photos (with appropriate credit given) are welcome.

Judging Criteria

Originality, analytical thinking, clarity of writing (including grammar), organization, appropriate use of evidence and references, and connection to broader, system-level issues.

Award Amount

The winner will receive a \$1,500 cash prize and a PHILIPS Sonicare power toothbrush.

The award-winning essay will be published in the November 2026 issue of *Oh Canada!*, CDHA's member magazine.

Submission Deadline

The essay with accompanying nomination form is to be submitted via email to: scientificeditor@cdha.ca no later than midnight on June 1, 2026.

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