



**James "Rhio" O'Connor Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest  
Application & Rules**

**Steps to Apply to the Essay Contest:**

- Step 1) Fill in the box "Your Information." Read the Rules (attached) and sign below. Return this form by email, fax or mail.**
- Step 2) Write and post your essay on the Web before the deadline and notify us by email where your essay is posted.**

**Important Dates**

**Early Submissions Are Encouraged!!!!**

Deadline for Posting Essay on .edu website/blog: February 26, 2010 at 10:00 P.M. ET.  
Winners Selected: April 23, 2010  
Winners Notified by: June 15, 2010

**Your Information:**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade (Freshman, Sophomore, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of College/University: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In entering this essay contest, I warrant that I am eighteen years of age or older, currently enrolled in a U.S. college or university, and that I have read and understand the James "Rhio" O'Connor Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest Rules contained herein and that I am legally bound by them.

Please Sign Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign and return this page by email, fax, or regular mail.  
Keep a copy for your records.**

Email: [aelliott@cancermonthly.com](mailto:aelliott@cancermonthly.com) Fax: 919-570-8595  
Mail: Scholarship Committee, Cancer Monthly, Inc., 14460 New Falls of Neuse Road,  
Suite 149-243 Raleigh, NC 27614



## James "Rhio" O'Connor Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest Rules

### Prizes

\$5,000	First Prize
\$2,000	Second Prize
\$1,000	Third Prize
\$500	Fourth Prize
\$100	Fifth Prize
\$50	Honorable Mention (there are thirty Honorable Mention awards)

### Type of Scholarship

This is an essay contest. Winners will be awarded a check to be used towards tuition and/or expenses related to their college or university education. Contestants must be enrolled in a U.S. college/university at the time of entry in this contest and must be at least eighteen years of age. Only one essay per student is allowed.

### Eligibility

The essay contest is open to current undergraduate students who are currently enrolled in a college or university located in the fifty United States and the District of Columbia.

### Essay Content

Rhio O'Connor was diagnosed with a deadly cancer (mesothelioma) and given a year to live. Instead of giving up he found his own path to health and outlived his prognosis by more than six years. Rhio survived by intensively researching his cancer. He spent hours in the library and spoke to countless doctors, researchers and patients. He learned what various therapies offered, their long and short term side effects, and the theories and philosophies behind them.

Through this rigorous educational process, Rhio was able to help create his own therapeutic protocol along side the clinicians that he selected. He also developed the capacity to exercise informed consent that was truly fact based and informed. This extraordinary intellectual effort along with Rhio's optimistic spirit, belief in something greater than himself, and the ability to make tough choices helped him beat his prognosis and live with a cancer considered "incurable" for many years.

Please write an essay about how Rhio's story inspires you and what you would do if you faced the same challenges that he faced. What steps would you take if you were given a dire cancer prognosis? How would you conduct your research and make an informed decision when choosing a treatment? Would you look beyond chemo, radiation and surgery if they had little to offer? What resources would you use to make an informed decision – friends, teachers, clinicians, researchers, other patients, libraries, etc?

Please keep in mind that readers will want to know a little about the cancer (mesothelioma) that took Rhio O'Connor's life so you may want to include some brief information about Rhio and the cancer called mesothelioma.

### **Essay Length**

The essay must be no fewer than 700 and no more than 1,500 words in length.

### **Publishing/Posting**

Rhio O'Connor believed strongly in the importance of educating current and future leaders about the value of "thinking outside the box" when it came to the cause of cancer and its rational treatment. As a scholarship applicant the audience for your essay is first – your college/university and second – the public at large. Therefore, all essays must be posted/published on a .edu blog or webpage available through a college or university. **It is solely up to the contestant to determine whether the posting of their essay on a university sponsored or provided blog or webpage is permissible.**

All contestants had the opportunity to post/publish their essay on any personal blog or website up until November 9, 2009. Now that this deadline has passed, only a .edu website or blog is permitted. However, Cancer Monthly reserves the right to open a short period for late essays to be posted on a .com website. So if you missed the November 9<sup>th</sup> deadline and cannot post on an .edu site there may be another opportunity to post your essay on a personal blog or website. We will let you know by email if Cancer Monthly decides to allow this.

All expenses associated with a contestant's essay and its' posting or publishing on a website or blog are the sole responsibility of the contestant.

By Friday February 26, 2010 at 10:00 P.M. Eastern Time, Cancer Monthly, Inc. ("Cancer Monthly") must be notified by email that the contestant's essay has been posted on the web and the URL must be provided. Please notify Cancer Monthly by sending an email to: [aelliott@cancermonthly.com](mailto:aelliott@cancermonthly.com) Please put the words "Essay Posted" in the subject line. **Early submissions are encouraged!**

<b>Deadline for Posting Essay on .edu website/blog: February 26, 2010 at 10:00 P.M. ET.</b>
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### **Linking**

Essay readers may want to know more about the cancer that took Rhio O'Connor's life. Therefore, the posted/published essay **must** contain at least one link to Cancer Monthly's authoritative mesothelioma survivors' website [www.survivingmesothelioma.com](http://www.survivingmesothelioma.com) so that readers can learn more about this particular cancer, its diagnosis, treatment, and survivors. There is no required format for this link, but one example is to have the word

“mesothelioma” that appears somewhere in the essay hyperlinked to [www.survivingmesothelioma.com](http://www.survivingmesothelioma.com) so it is clickable.

No other links or advertisements should appear on the web page or blog page where the essay appears without the express written permission of Cancer Monthly.

## Judging

Essays will be judged by a qualified panel of judges chosen by Cancer Monthly and winners will be selected on or about April 23, 2010. Submissions will be judged on style, content, grammar and originality. Judges will look for clear, concise writing that is original, articulate, logically organized and well-supported. Winners will be notified by June 15, 2010 via telephone or email.

Winners Selected:	April 23, 2010
Winners Notified by:	June 15, 2010

## General

1. Essay must be solely the work of the contestant. Plagiarism will result in disqualification and may be reported to the appropriate authorities.
2. Decisions of the judges are final.
3. Employees of Cancer Monthly, its board of directors and their immediate family members are not eligible for this essay contest.
4. Winners shall be required to provide a Social Security Number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number to Cancer Monthly for issuance of a 1099 Form where appropriate. All federal, state, local and other taxes and charges on prizes will be the sole responsibility of the contestant.
5. By accepting a prize, winners grant to Cancer Monthly the right to edit, publish, copy, display and otherwise use their essay in connection with this contest, and to further use their names and biographical information in promotional materials, without further compensation or permission, except where prohibited by law.
6. Winners must keep their winning essays posted on their website or blog until June 15, 2011 or until their blog or website is taken down, whichever comes first.
7. Cancer Monthly will make every reasonable attempt to read and have judged every essay, but Cancer Monthly is not responsible for failure to read an essay.
8. Any prize or other item to which a contestant may become entitled as a result of his/her participation in this contest is subject to immediate revocation in the event of a discovery of a contestant's failure to comply with these rules.
9. The number of prizes may be changed at Cancer Monthly's sole discretion.
10. By participating in this essay contest and/or accepting a prize, contestants agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Cancer Monthly, its managers, members, directors, officers, and employees, from and against any and all liability and costs in connection with any claim from any liability, injury, damages, cost or expense, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or connected to participation in this contest or the acceptance, possession, use or misuse of any prizes.

11. Under no circumstances shall Cancer Monthly, its managers, members, directors, officers, employees, agents, investors or licensors, be liable to the contestant for any indirect, punitive, special or consequential damages.
12. Depending on the number of responses, Cancer Monthly may institute a cut-off where we will refuse to receive any more new applications after a certain date. Therefore, if you are interested in participating in this essay contest, you should submit your application as soon as possible.
13. If there are changes to these Rules they will be sent by email and will be considered read and accepted by the contestant. If they are not acceptable, the contestant may recuse him or herself from this essay contest.
14. Any dispute arising from this contest will be determined according to the laws of the State of North Carolina, without reference to its conflict of law principles, and the contestants consent to the personal jurisdiction of the state and federal courts located in Wake County, North Carolina and agree that such courts have exclusive jurisdiction over all such disputes.

**Our Contact Information:**

Comments or questions about the James "Rhio" O'Connor Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest are welcome. Please send questions to: [aelliott@cancermonthly.com](mailto:aelliott@cancermonthly.com) Or write:

Cancer Monthly, Inc.  
14460 New Falls of Neuse Road  
Suite 149-243  
Raleigh, NC 27614

Fax: 919-570-8595

# James "Rhio" O'Connor Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **I am a high school student, foreign student, international student, attending international campus, part-time student, am I eligible?**

The essay contest is open to current undergraduate students who are currently enrolled in a college or university located in the fifty United States and the District of Columbia. Therefore, high school students are ineligible unless they are also enrolled in a college or university.

Foreign Students: Students enrolled in foreign universities/colleges are ineligible.

International Students: International students enrolled in a U.S. college/university are eligible.

International Campus: If you are enrolled in a U.S. based college/university and are attending or plan to attend an international campus of that college/university you are eligible.

Part-time Students: Part-time students who are currently enrolled in a college/university and intend to continue their enrollment either part-time or full time in a college/university after June 15, 2010 are eligible. Otherwise, you are ineligible.

### **I am a college senior and graduating next June. Am I eligible?**

Winners will be awarded a check to be used towards tuition and/or expenses related to their college or university education. Therefore, if you will be enrolled in a graduate program after June 15, 2010 you are eligible. If, however, you are graduating and not pursuing any additional education, you are ineligible.

### **What about legal status? I am an immigrant and/or I don't have a social security number. Am I eligible?**

Essay winners shall be required to provide a Social Security Number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number to Cancer Monthly for issuance of a 1099 Form where appropriate.

### **Can the money received from the scholarship be used to pay tuition for a summer study abroad program or overseas study?**

Yes, because a summer abroad program or overseas study is related to your college or university education.

**Where do I post the essay?**

You are responsible for posting your essay on the Web. If you post your essay after November 9, 2009 it must appear on your college's or university's .edu website. If you post it before November 9, 2009 it can appear on your college's or university's .edu website or your own personal website or blog.

**I can post my essay on a webpage through my college, but the URL address does not contain .edu is this okay?**

Send us the URL in an email and we will let you know if it complies with the Rules.

**I do not have access to a .edu website or blog to post my essay, is there anything I can do?**

All contestants had the opportunity to post/publish their essay on any personal blog or website up until November 9, 2009. Now that this deadline has passed, only a .edu website or blog is permitted. However, Cancer Monthly reserves the right to open a short period for late essays to be posted on a .com website. So if you missed the November 9<sup>th</sup> deadline and cannot post on an .edu site there may be another opportunity to post your essay on a personal blog or website. We will let you know by email if Cancer Monthly decides to allow this.

**Do I need to mail or email my essay?**

No. Please do not mail or email us your essay. Just send us an email indicating where it is posted on the Web (the URL).

**May I write the essay as a short story, as if I was the one facing it?**

Yes.

**Must I have to have any personal cancer experience to apply?**

No.

**May I include accounts of people I know who had gone through cancer treatments?**

Yes. But, if you use the name of a real person or any personally identifiable information you will need their permission in writing. We can not give legal advice. Speak to an attorney if you are unsure what to do.