

2025 Maurice R. Hilleman Essay Contest



WRITING PROMPT

Not everyone will be a prolific scientist like Dr. Hilleman, but all citizens need to understand how science works.

USE AN EXAMPLE TO DISCUSS WHY THIS UNDERSTANDING IS IMPORTANT GIVEN THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SOCIETY TODAY.

Dr. Maurice R. Hilleman was a virologist who developed more than half of the vaccines that young children receive today. His work, credited with saving 8 million lives every year, was cutting edge. Even though not everyone will be a scientist like Dr. Hilleman, everyone should understand how science works because the resulting discoveries and advancements shape daily life. To celebrate Dr. Hilleman's legacy, students in grades 6 to 12* from the U.S. & Canada have an opportunity to learn about Dr. Hilleman and reflect on a particular scientific advancement, its role in daily life and how it demonstrates the importance of all citizens understanding what science enables us to do and how.

**Grades 6 to 11 in Quebec*

Learn more: [HILLEMANTHON.COM](https://www.hillemanfilm.com)





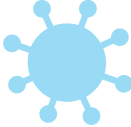
WHO?

Students in grades 6 to 12* living in the United States (including District of Columbia and U.S. Territories) or Canada and enrolled in a public, private, online, religious or charter school or who attend a home school program can participate. First and second place will be awarded in the high school and middle school categories in each country.

**Grades 6 to 11 in Quebec*

WHAT?

Learn about Dr. Hilleman, and write a 500- to 1,000-word essay that responds to this prompt:

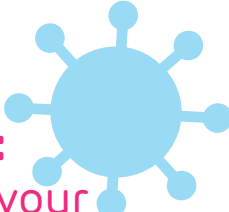


Not everyone will be a prolific scientist like Dr. Hilleman, but all citizens need to understand how science works. Use an example to discuss why this understanding is important given the role of science and technology in society today.

Essay should be written in English for U.S. submissions and English or French for Canadian submissions using complete sentences and appropriate grammar. See “Official Rules” at **HILLEMANSFILM.COM**.

HOW?

Review the official rules and get an entry form at **HILLEMANSFILM.COM**. Completed entries must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, February 6, 2025, or postmarked by February 6 if mailed. Submissions that are incomplete, do not address the prompt, do not follow the contest rules, or are not received by this time will not be considered.



TEACHERS:
Encourage your students to participate today!

BONUS!

Teacher named in winning students' entries will receive a signed copy of a book written by Paul A. Offit, MD, and a one-year complimentary membership to the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT), graciously provided by NABT.

WINNERS WILL RECEIVE:

Cash prize

1st place US\$500 | 2nd place US\$250

Winner certificate

Recognition at a virtual award event during spring 2025

Event will be hosted by Dr. Paul Offit — VEC director, vaccine inventor, and Hilleman biographer. The event will also include special guests and student winners reading their essays.



CONSULT THE HILLEMANS FILM WEBSITE (**HILLEMANSFILM.COM**) FOR APPLICATION AND COMPLETE RULES AND CONDITIONS.