



2021

FR. PEDRO ARRUPE, SJ

WRITING CHALLENGE



SPONSORED BY:
THE ZIMMERMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

WHAT IS THE FR. PEDRO ARRUIPE, SJ WRITING CHALLENGE?

The *Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ Writing Challenge* is an opportunity for students to express in writing what principle or personal ethic is a driving factor in their lives.

It is meant to publicly recognize young people who reflect upon and write about their personal beliefs and values through the lens of their Jesuit Catholic education.

GOALS

- Build the Arrupe Jesuit writing community
- Encourage students to explore their Jesuit Catholic identity through self-examination and writing
- Improve narrative writing skills
- Recognize exceptional writers within the Arrupe Jesuit community

SPECIAL THANKS

PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Jason Armijo

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEER ESSAY READERS:

Glenn Amorosia	Clay Fryer	Bill Masterson	Jayne Ritchie
Anne Archer	Todd Gander	Timothy McCracken	Mireya Rivas
Tony Arias	Kirsten Garber	Matt McLane	Yesenia Robles
Rob Attai	Natalie Gegan	Maryah Medina	Irma Rojo Mancillas
Gus Barajas	Jim Ginley	Kate Michalek	Melissa Rosas
Vicki Brentin	Amanda Green	Mark Michalek	Al Rowley
Samantha Brooke	Bill Harmsen	Kristi Michaud	Angie Rueda
Amy Broughton	Lisa Hogan	Daniel Mondragon	Amy Shanahan
Brian Brown	Nolan Housh	Florence Navarro	Wendy Staudt
Beth Campbell	Cindy Javelet	Kerry Ninneman	Kayla Sterner
Jessica Carbone	Rick Klau	Corey Novak	Bonnie Sutherland
Lizbeth Cervantes	Rosa Kougl	Mary Nugent	Rachel Taylor
Theo Chapman	Diane Kyncl	Jack O'Connor	Claudia Villa
Sammy Cordova	Russ Kyncl	Pari O'Donnell	Julie Walker
Ellyn Coughlin	Kelley Lindberg	Ronny O'Dwyer	Steve Witulski
Walt Coughlin	Kate Logodicio	Megan Parker	Charlotte Wixson
Darlene Craven	Tom Mallary	Jacqueline Phillips	Heather Wright
Maggie Drucker	Theresa Marten	Shelly Remaklus	Courtney Ziminski
Patrick Elkins-Zeglarski	Marianne Marvez	Lexie Repp	

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF & FACULTY ESSAY READERS:

Olivia Britt	John Micich	Ty Smith
Barb Fuchs	Maria Orozco	Megan Turilli
Stephan Graham	Nancy Padron	Eve Vaccaro
Kirsten Joranlien	Jillian Sharp	
Mike Lovinguth	Maggie Shumway	

WINNERS AND PRIZES

1ST PLACE

Anne Zimmerman Scholarship, Macbook Air
Janeaya Ramos, *Class of 2021*

2ND PLACE

The Zimmerman Family Scholarship, iPad Air
Haina Rodriguez, *Class of 2021*

3RD PLACE

The Zimmerman Family Scholarship, Kindle Fire
Leslie Meraz, *Class of 2021*

FINALISTS

Amazon Gift card
Yoltzin Montesinos, *Class of 2024*
Alyssa Avila, *Class of 2022*
Erika Guardado, *Class of 2021*
Isabella Iacovetta, *Class of 2021*
Daisy Marquez, *Class of 2022*
Ashlyn Masdin, *Class of 2024*
Jamilee Ornelas, *Class of 2022*

ESSAY PROMPTS BY GRADE LEVEL

NINTH: *AWARENESS OF GOOD WILL/KINDNESS/LOVE*

When you reflect on your life so far, think about how you have been impacted by acts of generosity, compassion, care, service and love. At the time, you may not have recognized these acts as God's good will/kindness/love in your life. Describe an event or occasion when you've experienced good will/kindness/love in your life.

TENTH: *DISCOVERY OF SELF*

Based on your first two years at Arrupe Jesuit, how would you define what it means to be a man/woman for others? How have your choices impacted your ability to grow as a young person? Overall, describe how you have personally grown into this definition since coming to Arrupe Jesuit.

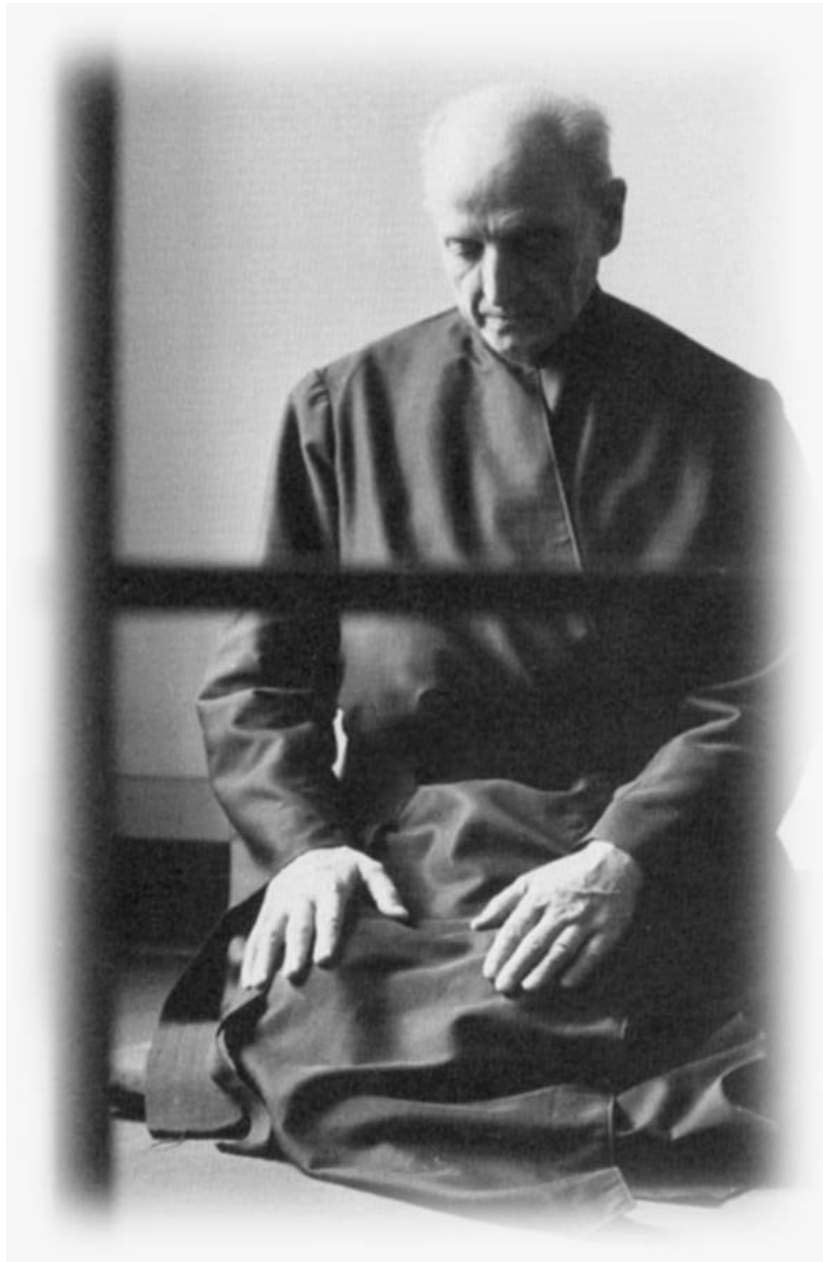
ELEVENTH: *CHOICES*

Choose two of the Graduate at Graduation characteristics (Open to Growth, Religious, Intellectually Competent, Loving, Committed to Justice, Work Experienced) to reflect upon, and then explain how you foster those characteristics in the greater community. How do you see yourself using both of these Grad at Grad characteristics to influence your community now, and into the future?

TWELFTH: *CARRYING IT FORWARD*

Look back over your time at Arrupe Jesuit. You've had opportunities to be a man or woman for others; additionally, you've been impacted by men and women for others both within and outside our school community. Now, envision how you will carry forward what you've learned from others and about yourself. How will what you've learned about being a man or woman for others impact how you live your life after Arrupe Jesuit?

THE PEDRO ARRUPE, SJ
WRITING CHALLENGE
WINNING ESSAYS



1ST PLACE

JANEAYA RAMOS
CLASS OF 2021

Kids are blank canvases waiting to be painted with wonderful colors. Our youth learn everything from their elders, and it is important to guide them in the right direction. It is up to us to teach them how to be individuals and not abide by society's stereotypes. If we influence them now, we can help shape their future for a less discriminatory world. With our guidance, we can help them create a beautiful canvas.

I created this statement out of my beliefs that I will stand by for the rest of my life. Why bring this up? Why is it so important to focus on the younger generation instead of "fixing" or teaching the adults? I get these questions when I share my interest in the younger generation.

I was a child who did not have a perfect life. Drugs, alcohol, prisons, and jails played out in many of my life experiences when I was young because they ruined my parents and broke my relationships with them for a long time. As a child, I wasn't close to either of my parents. I went to school every morning at 7:30, got off at 3:30 pm, and walked to Owen Boys & Girls Club right after school. I attended Owen until 9 pm every single weekday to avoid going home. I honestly was never home because I loved feeling wanted by my friends and coaches. My parents grew separate when I was young, so it was just my sisters and myself at home and my friends and myself at Owen.

Now you might be wondering why I talked about blank canvases, and I promise I'm getting there. At the beginning of my life, my canvas was filled with dark and gloomy colors with hints of red from the absent love and hurt I felt in my life. My parents weren't the best influence, but as I got older, I chose to be my person because I wanted to be the best influence for my younger sisters and cousins. I didn't want to be that person living check by check or that person always asking for money.

I enjoy encouraging younger teammates to try activities out of their comfort zone. Now, I am serving as Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year of Metro Denver to represent my community better and give the kids someone to look up to. Being at Owen, my eyes opened. The staff was there for me, and they made me happy. My canvas gained more vibrant colors as I developed characteristics that made me the person I am today. I won and lost games, including championships, in soccer and basketball. I painted, made wood figures, built Legos, and won coloring contests. I was proud that I accomplished all these activities by myself. As I grew older, I realized that I didn't need to prove myself to anyone. I didn't need to satisfy anyone else or get torn down by their negativity. I learned to be friends with people for who they are as individuals and not what rumors say about them. I have worked hard to achieve so many awards to prove to my community that success is possible no

matter where you come from. Children can succeed with the right tools and the proper guidance. I want to be able to help children color their canvases with unique colors. Before I go to bed, I lay in the dark, moonlight shining through my window, and stare at the ceiling. As I'm reflecting on my day, I think about how many colors I've added to my canvas and wonder if I am satisfied with the colors I've added throughout the day.

Being a woman for others means helping and guide others to be able to create those colors. We must be able to try to show small bits of kindness and genuine love throughout our community. This could be doing the dishes before parents get home from work, helping classmates with school problems, or even volunteering. We do those and recognize how it makes us feel. Embrace the feeling and know love is being shared. Christian love... how do you interpret this? It can mean anything, but ultimately it's giving our time and energy to others. We must accept others for who they are. We can't judge someone before we know them. Small acts of kindness are the best and sometimes more meaningful. At school, this can mean helping someone with homework or a class problem, including them in sports and group work, or simply holding the door open for them. These small acts of kindness can activate the Domino Effect. You never know what someone is going through, and making them happy might inspire them to spread that act of kindness. When doing selfless and loving actions, we should expect nothing in return and act genuinely.

2ND PLACE

**HAINA RODRIGUEZ
CLASS OF 2021**

It was a gentle clinic, filled to the brim with amiable and nurturing people. Yet inside the walls of the patients' rooms, there's a staggering feeling of despair. I remain in the shadows studying the people there and learning about them and the dreadful pain they have endured. They have suffered the loss of a child, which creates an unsettling feeling. As part of my school's Corporate Work Study Program, I was chosen to work in a small OBGYN clinic. I never imagined a crammed clinic in the corner of a street would have a permanent impact on me.

Learning about the truth that lies behind those walls has started a burning desire to comfort and care for the patients in whatever ways I can. When someone comes in, I always make sure they are as comfortable as possible, no matter how much work I still need to complete. They may not notice the things I do, like getting them refreshments or making sure they have warm robes from the dryer to change into. But I know if I were going through

this experience, I would appreciate these gestures. You can always find me serving others. Whether it is cleaning the patients' room and filling them with any materials they may need, making sure the staff have something to eat, or scanning and sending out all the patient's documents, there is always something that needs to be done.

The patients sometimes unleash their anger and frustration on you. To them, you represent the cause of their offense, the drop that spilled the glass. It would always seem personal and make me feel minuscule, unimportant, and lousy. However, simple actions like the warm robes and towels created a better environment for everyone. Over time, fewer people came in frustrated because they understood that we would do everything we can to help solve their problems.

The nurses and doctors at my job always ask what pushes me to treat the patients so thoughtfully. I always respond, "My mom." She always reminds me of where my family came from and the struggles they had to deal with. Since she was one of the oldest, she always took care of three or more of her younger siblings, grocery shopping, cooking for the family of 14, and helping her older brother and dad tend the fields. Because of this, and learning about everything she did to help her family makes me push myself to help and do as much as I can in every aspect of my life. At school, it is getting the best grades I can. At work, it is having an impact on everyone, and doing my best at every assignment. At home, it is to make sure my mom and brother return from work to a clean home and a warm dinner waiting for them. As a daughter, it is making sure my mom can relax as much as possible from her long and exhausting workdays; I try to make sure of this by doing little things like grocery shopping, cleaning the house, laundry, or anything that may be needed.

I entered the clinic without knowing the true pain and struggles others go through. I never in a million years thought I would be the person who tries to help and be sympathetic toward the people lashing out. Yet now, every time I see someone frustrated or angry, I think about a thousand things they could be going through. Because of this, I want to be the doctor that understands and treats them in a kind and caring manner. I hope to learn more about what that truly means and what that looks like through my journey to completing medical school. When I finish medical school, I know that I will forever show throughout my personal and professional life.

3RD PLACE

LESLIE MERAZ CLASS OF 2021

My sophomore year at Arrupe Jesuit High School, we took a trip to Berkeley park for our day of General's Together. We ran around for hours, enjoyed each other's company, and played different sports and activities. As the day was coming to an end, I realized that I had lost my bracelet. My father had given me this bracelet, and I wore it every single day, so the thought of losing it made me anxious and worried. The teachers got word of what had happened, and with no hesitation, they called for the attention of the entire sophomore class. We were asked to line up from one end of the park to the other, and together we walked shoulder to shoulder across the park, looking closely at the ground for my lost bracelet. Soon enough, a friend of mine found and returned it to me. As I fought back the tears of relief, I realized I would carry this moment with me for the rest of the years to come at Arrupe. Because all my classmates came together to help me find something very meaningful to me, I promised myself to appreciate my peers more and be there for any one of them in a moment of need.

The generosity and kindness of others is something that radiates goodwill for the next person to pass forward. Something I believe is unique about me because I always try to look for the sweet, significant moments in life. When we open our hearts to find the meaning in the small things; such as a friend giving you words of encouragement or an adventurous toddler coming to greet you right when you need some light to your day, we can start to appreciate the things that we usually pass off as unimportant. And when you appreciate something, it makes it much easier to love and care for it. This is how I see human relationships function in their simplest, most beautiful forms. I wasn't always someone who wanted to live for others, but because Arrupe showed me the path to humility, charity, and faith, I shifted my focus on how I wanted to make a difference to the people around me.

When high school comes to an end, being a woman for others is something I want to continue striving for. Many might say that I am naive to try to put others before myself in a society where personal wealth has taken priority over the needs of the suffering, but not letting my attitude be shaken in the sight of doubt and criticism is exactly what I feel will lead me to live a fulfilling life. My goals of becoming a journalist to speak for the voiceless and my dreams of volunteering in third world countries are all passions that have grown from my love of the human connection. Along the way of my journey, I hope to find many ways, small and large, to spread unity and hope. The most beautiful moments in life start with an act of kindness, and this is how I aspire to be a leader and carry forward the Jesuit values for those who feel lost and need a smile.

PROFILE OF THE ARRUPE JESUIT GRADUATE AT GRADUATION

INTELLECTUALLY COMPETENT

Constantly thinking across disciplines and cultures, always maintaining a deep respect for wisdom and truth.

OPEN TO GROWTH

Seeking out new challenges and opportunities to enrich her/his experience or perspective, be it religiously, socially, culturally, emotionally, or intellectually.

COMMITTED TO JUSTICE

Working for and with the impoverished, the unfairly treated, and those who are without representation.

LOVING

Recognizing that respect, trust, and fidelity are the basis of any loving relationship and that love, for God or others, requires giving without asking anything in return.

RELIGIOUS

Having a sincere and deep sense of God's presence and love in her/his life, ever reliant on prayer and reflection on Christ's example for guidance and development.

WORK EXPERIENCED

Having learned to be a dependable, responsible worker of integrity with high ethical standards.

Nothing is more practical than
finding God, than
falling in Love
in a quite absolute, final way.

What you are in love with,
what seizes your imagination,
will affect everything.

It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends,
what you read,
whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.

Fall in Love, stay in Love,
and it will decide everything.

FR. PEDRO ARRUPE, SJ
(1907-1991)