



2022
FR. PEDRO ARRUPE, SJ
WRITING CHALLENGE



SPONSORED BY:
THE ZIMMERMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

WHAT IS THE FR. PEDRO ARRUPE, 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:

Ajalee Amador
Debbie Appelhanz
Sicily Appelhanz
Brian Brown
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Ann Carroll-Butler
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Carolyn Hendrickson
Sara Hogan
Tom Kennedy
Jeanne Kerr
Diane Kyncl
Russ Kyncl
Aliza Litke
Shanele Lyons
Bill Masterson
Sandy Masterson
Mario Merida
Kristi Michaud
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Parizad Motiwala-
O'Donnell
Lois Anne Nadorff
Florence Navarro
Aimee Nicholson
Amy Olson
Erika Osterberg
Megan Parker
Jacqueline Phillips
Kimberly Reedy
Carole Richter
Yesenia Robles
Santiago Rosell
Francis Scannell

Nicki Scheurwater
Leigh Schommer
Ameeta Scott
Carol Selner
Rachel Taylor
Margaret Tezak
Todd Touchet
Lisa Vialpando
Megan Walsh
Andrew Wixson
Mary Jo Yantis

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF & FACULTY ESSAY READERS:

Gabe Berger
Olivia Britt
Ed Clements
Chad Cookinham
Marcus Fryer
Barb Fuchs

Stephan Graham
Odalis Hernandez
Kirsten Joranlien
Mike Lovinguth
John Micich
Maria Orozco

Addee Phillips
Vianney Rodriguez
Nicky Schifano
Maggie Shumway
Ty Smith

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.

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?

WINNERS AND PRIZES

1ST PLACE

Anne Zimmerman Scholarship, Macbook Air
Dinell Espinoza, *Class of 2022*

2ND PLACE

The Zimmerman Family Scholarship, iPad Air
Alyssa Avila, *Class of 2022*

3RD PLACE

The Zimmerman Family Scholarship, Kindle Fire
Joann Hatch, *Class of 2022*

FINALISTS

Amazon Gift Card

Makayla Ponce de Leon Ward, *Class of 2022*
Daniela Guadana Huizar, *Class of 2022*
Fernando Martinez-Briones JR, *Class of 2022*
Mariela Garza, *Class of 2023*
Carlos Ramirez Bermudez, *Class of 2023*
Dafne Robles, *Class of 2022*
Jesus Reyes, *Class of 2025*

1ST PLACE

**DINELL ESPINOZA
CLASS OF 2022**

The Process That Became My Future

The idea of being men and women for others came easy to me when I saw the struggle others face in politics. Working at the Colorado State Capitol as a tour guide opened my eyes to a new world. As a tour guide, there was so much information about Colorado and its history to learn. I have a strong interest in politics, so being able to listen to debates and attend committee meetings was very intriguing. I loved the process, the bills, the debates, and the communication between constituents and their legislators. I especially loved considering whether I agreed or disagreed with a bill, and why.

My favorite story from my time at the Capitol, one that impacted me the most, happened during a tour where fourth graders came to the Capitol for a visit. In the middle of the tour, I noticed a student who seemed lost. There seemed to be some disconnect with him. I asked if he understood what I was saying, he explained in Spanish that he didn't comprehend the tour because he didn't speak English. Not wanting this student to be left out, I started giving the tour in both English and Spanish. However, the student's teacher asked me to stop speaking Spanish because the rest of the students didn't understand. The teacher's actions made me furious. It would be simple to incorporate both languages, but this teacher prevented inclusivity. After the tour, I spoke with the student and explained the tour to him, and then Senator James Coleman came and talked with him. The student's eyes glowed and smiled at the attention from our legislator. He was beyond happy. I hope this experience inspired him and opened his eyes to a new world.

After this incident, I continued to notice different roadblocks Hispanics face in gaining access to the Judicial system. Many wanted to talk about issues in their communities with their legislator, but there was a language barrier that kept communication from happening. My intervening to help answer questions and point Latinos in the right direction wasn't enough. I realize Hispanics want to better their communities, but their efforts seem impossible when they're forced to communicate through Google translate. Lack of representation in politics for minorities is bad for the system and the people legislators represent. It was also difficult for me to witness this language barrier firsthand as a Latina woman growing up translating for my family.

As I see it, the root of the problem is education. In politics, many legislators decide whether a bill passes or not without considering the history of the people they are meant to represent. Legislators need to be held accountable to better understand how their legislative actions affect people, especially people of color. Consider the Columbus/Indigenous Day debate. Many legislators didn't understand the pain Columbus Day brought to Native Americans and other communities of color. They didn't consider the damage Columbus inflicted on Indigenous people when making it a national holiday. Growing up in school I was taught that Columbus discovered the Americas and settled on "new" land. However, in high school, I learned the complete story about Columbus and his genocide of native peoples. Now, knowing the truth, I didn't want to celebrate Columbus Day. At the Capitol, many legislators had to be taught about the pain Columbus Day brought Native Americans. Because of this education, the bill passed into law making Columbus Day, Indigenous Peoples' Day.

The most important takeaway I had from the Capitol was seeing the importance of education. Being first-generation and the first woman in my family to go to college inspires me and helps me see the importance of education. Going to college will help me fulfill my dream of getting into politics and helping communities of color. I want to inspire young girls and women by providing them with the representation I needed when I was growing up.

Being a man and woman for others means creating and uplifting your community. Listening when others are struggling and being their voice when they are unable to speak. Moving forward in my future I will create a better community for my Latinos and create bills and legislation that we've been craving, but just didn't have a voice to do it. The Jesuit motto creates leaders, and as a leader of the future, I will put my community first because they are the ones that voted for me to represent them and speak their truth. Being a woman for others came easy because I took a step back and looked at issues that can be solved when we each do our part to help one another and build a strong community that we grow to love and cherish, this is my future and my goal in life.

2ND PLACE

ALYSSA AVILA
CLASS OF 2022

Unleashing Empathy

“Only by being a man or woman for others does one become fully human.”

- Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ

Prior to attending Arrupe, I did not know the importance of being a woman for and with others. I knew that we had to be compassionate and empathetic, but I never thought about the importance of walking with others to better understand their stories. At Arrupe, one never walks alone. Whether you're a student, faculty, or visitor, there is always someone willing to walk with you, listen to you, and learn from you. I have been fortunate enough to be a part of the club communities that make up Arrupe, where the environments are safe and welcoming and your peers are genuinely invested in what you have to say. I have also learned how to be a better woman in society through my volunteer work. Before enrolling at Arrupe I went to public school, where I was not exposed to many opportunities to give back to my community, but that all changed once I became a General.

One of the newest additions to Arrupe's extracurricular activities is the Student Voice and Engagement Club (SVEC). SVEC allows students to bring deep conversations into the classroom while also establishing an inclusive and open environment where students feel safe enough to share their insights. Many of the topics that are discussed during meetings pertain to personal experiences that have impacted us both positively and negatively. At one of the Student Voice and Engagement Club meetings, we focused on how external and internal pressures affect our body image. We established that our families can often lead to insecurities. Family dynamics are usually loving and comfortable spaces, but some relatives can be a bit "too comfortable" and make harsh comments. For example, in several cultures, relatives usually take offense when one does not eat "enough" or eats "too little." If so, the relative will usually follow up with a comment about one's physical figure. Our families who should be loving and embrace us for who we are, are the people who simultaneously tear us down. After hearing everyone's stories, we could relate to some, empathize with others, and most importantly understand different perspectives of our peers. The insight I obtained is how to empathize with people on a personal level. It takes fully listening to a person to be able to empathize with them, which is something that is not commonly done. I will take my newfound knowledge of empathy with me as I embark on my college journey and beyond, as I meet new people and hear their stories.

At Girls Inc. of Metro Denver, I serve as a mentor to elementary school girls and a teaching aid to my supervisors. Throughout my time at Girls Inc. I have learned about the different backgrounds and exposures that some young girls have had. Thus providing me with a grounding perspective on the different socioeconomic backgrounds that exist within society. I try to make sure that the girls feel safe and valued, while also being their confidant, willing listener, and friend whenever they need me. The moments I had with the girls, whether they were happy, funny, or serious, showed me that regardless of the age gap, I am one with the girls. Every time we were doing something in the kitchen or out on a field trip I felt like I had to protect each one of them. I may be an only child but at Girls Inc. I feel like I have over 20 little sisters, which to me is a blessing.

Above all else, spending time at Girls Inc. has shown me the value of volunteering and how commitment to service not only affects those we serve but also ourselves. My involvement within my community used to be minuscule because I was not exposed to volunteer opportunities. However, Arrupe has allowed me to grow as a woman for and with others, and with that my appreciation for service has grown. It was easy for me to continue to want to show up to Girls Inc. because of the relationships I had created with the girls. They were my motivation. I do not know if I made as significant an impact on the girls' lives as they did on mine, but the possibility of being a person the girls looked forward to seeing motivated me to continue to give my 110% to Girls Inc. each and every day I volunteered.

As my four years at Arrupe come to a close, I have reflected on the countless lessons I have learned in and outside of the school building. The most important lesson I have learned would be how to empathize with others. Through the Student Voice and Engagement Club, I have been able to fully understand the importance of empathy. I have been able to take my newfound knowledge with me into the classroom and to Girls Inc. Being able to empathize with others on a deeper level has allowed me to be a better listener and person. Arrupe has given me the opportunities and resources to be a woman for and with others which I will continue to embody by "paying it forward" as I teach others the importance of empathy. I hope to continue to stay involved with Girls Inc. while I am in college and hope to teach the girls how to empathize with their peers. As I build new relationships in college, I will continue to be empathetic while others share their stories. As Pedro Arrupe said, to be fully human one must be a man and woman for and with others, something that cannot be done if one cannot empathize.

3RD PLACE

**JOANN HATCH
CLASS OF 2022**

Leadership For The Rest of My Life

Over my time at Arrupe Jesuit High School, the opportunities I have been presented with encouraged my growth as a woman for others. My mindset shifted to the curiosity about finding new possibilities to help and care for others. I've spent the last four years finding myself and caring for others inside and outside of Arrupe.

Throughout this experience, I have discovered my vocation and profession. As a timid, quiet, unsure sophomore, I was placed at St. Anthony North Health Campus through the Corporate Work Study Program. Over the past two years, and especially through COVID, I became a valuable employee and volunteer in the hospital. Knowing very little when I started, I was eager and willing to learn. Dedicating my time volunteering every weekend, the position of 'Lead Campus Support' was awarded to me. Working alongside nurses, patients, and associates has taught me so much and my passion has grown tremendously. As I work closely with the administration, the job allows me to give tours to new employees, train volunteers, work in different patient areas, coordinate events, and develop problem-solving skills. Working in eight different departments across the hospital is second nature to me and I am proud that my work is significant to the operation of the hospital. This incredible opportunity led me to now be a strong, compassionate leader in the service of others.

St. Anthony's has had the biggest impact on me with every single person working there with their life-long vocation of being a man or woman for others. This experience has led me to take it to my school community directly. I've learned to be a leader in healthcare with patients and now I am a leader at Arrupe with my classmates. As Student Body President, I have developed respect for all leaders and authority figures. This has instilled my lifelong goal of becoming a leader in healthcare. The hours that some may deem as work, I see as a place that fulfills me with overwhelming joy. After Arrupe, I will attend Seattle University and continue my Jesuit education while working as a Certified Nurse Assistant. Becoming a nurse is undeniably my career goal and my reason to be a woman for others.

In the present and future, I will use the lessons and life-changing experiences from Arrupe and be the best version of myself. Arrupe taught me and will always remind me that I am a woman for others. The love, motivation, encouragement, and empathy that I have felt from Arrupe are the pillars of the vocation that I am ready to pursue.

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)