

CANE Annual Writing Contest 2018

“...sed iam felicior aetas
terga dedit, tremuloque gradu venit aegra senectus,
quae patienda diu est (nam iam mihi saecula septem
acta vides): superest, numeros ut pulveris aequem,
ter centum messes, ter centum musta videre.
Tempus erit, cum de tanto me corpore parvam
longa dies faciet consumptaque membra senecta
ad minimum redigentur onus: nec amata videbor
nec placuisse deo;...” --Ovid, *Metamorphoses* XIV.142-150

On 25 January 2018, the novelist, Dara Horn, wrote an opinion piece in the New York Times about “The Men Who Want to Live Forever”:

“Would you like to live forever? Some billionaires, already invincible in every other way, have decided that they also deserve not to die. Today several biotech companies, fueled by Silicon Valley fortunes, are devoted to ‘life extension’ – or as some put it, to solving ‘the problem of death.’”....As the longevity entrepreneur Arram Sabeti told *The New Yorker*: ‘The proposition that we can live forever is obvious. It doesn’t violate the laws of physics, so we can achieve it.’”

In the passage cited above, the great poet, Ovid (43 BCE – 17/18 CE), gives voice to the Cumaean Sibyl who knows a little something about living a long, long, long, long, long life. Using this passage as a starting point, imagine that these contemporary immortality-seeking billionaires pay a visit to Cumae. What advice do you imagine the Sibyl would give to these men trying to find a way to live forever?

Due Date: 17 December 2018

Guidelines for Students:

- The project may be a short story, poem, drama, or essay.
- The project should be typed or word-processed.
- Maximum length: 700 words
- If you use any source materials for this project, you must provide specific references and a bibliography.

Your project will be judged holistically, based on how successfully you address the given topic, how imaginative and creative your idea is, and how well you use language to engage your reader.

Your name should not appear on the project itself. Please include a cover page in the following format, including this signed statement. Only projects with this signed statement will be considered for judging.

Name of Student
Grade of Student
Name of School
Name of Teacher
Email Address of Teacher

This project represents my own original work. No outside help has been provided for this project. If selected as a winner, your entry and name will be published on caneweb.org.

Signed _____

Date _____

Guidelines for Teachers

The CANE Writing Contest is a regional competition open to students of Latin, Greek, or Classics in New England middle and secondary schools. We believe that the goals of the contest can best be served by requesting that the written project be the student's own work. Hence, the student should not ask for any help in writing or correcting the project before submitting the final copy. To ensure that all entrants have an equal chance to win this contest, we urge all teachers to follow these guidelines:

(1) Present the topic to your students and answer any questions they may have about it.

(2) **Give your students a copy of the document "CANE Annual Writing Contest 2018,"** including a due date and supplementing it with any additional suggestions you may have about revising the rough draft and proofreading the final copy.

(3) Give your students a deadline early enough to allow you to judge your students' projects and submit the three best projects to your State Representative by **December 17, 2018.**

(4) **You may discuss the general topic with your students to be sure they understand it,** but explain that the projects must be original works on the given topic and that students may not seek help from others, whether students, teachers, or parent, although they may arrange to have the final draft typed or word-processed by someone else.

(5) **For the three winning entries you submit to your state representative, make sure your students have included the required cover page and statement that the work is their own.**

Name of Student

Grade of Student

Name of School

Name of Teacher

Email Address of Teacher

We will use teacher e-mail to communicate with the top three winners in each state at the middle school and high school level. If one of your students' projects is among the winning entries, you can expect to hear from your State Representative by January 15.

(6) Remind your students that this is a contest, with certificates and prizes given to the three finalists in each of the New England states at both the high school and middle school level, and that the New England-wide high school winner will receive a certificate and a gift card, to be presented at the 112th Annual Meeting of CANE, 8 and 9 March 2019 at the University of Rhode Island. **The high school winner will have the opportunity to be our guest for dinner and to read the winning entry at this event. The winning entry will be published in CANE's Annual Bulletin and on its website with the student's name.**

(7) You may find it helpful to provide your students with copies of past winning projects,

published in the Annual Bulletin. Please visit www.caneweb.org for recent high school winning entries.

(8) Submit the best three projects from your school to your CANE State Representative by December 17, 2018, making sure that you enclose each student's signed statement that the project is his or her own work. For names and addresses of the State Representatives see the listing under the CANE Executive Committee on the CANE website, www.caneweb.org. Students may not submit their projects directly to the Chair of the Writing Contest. To do so will invalidate the project.

(9) Please do not rank the three projects that you submit from your school to your state representative. If you wish, you may recognize the authors of all three projects in some appropriate way, but at this preliminary level students' projects are not to be ranked first, second, or third place. The State Representatives will submit the entries to the president-elect.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed the CANE Writing Contest on the 2018-2019 NASSP National Advisory List of Contests and Activities as a regional program for participation by students in middle and secondary schools in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Students from other states who are enrolled in independent or parochial schools in New England are eligible to enter the CANE Writing Contest. We have had many inquiries about the CANE Writing Contest from students in schools outside the area served by the Classical Association of New England. We are happy to answer these inquiries with information about the contest, but we regret that students enrolled in schools located outside New England are not eligible to participate.

Attention State Representatives: After you have read your assigned entries, please advise John Higgins, President-Elect, of your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place choices by **January 15, 2019**. Please also include a ranked list of the three top winners in the state, including the students' teachers and the name of their school.