



**TPIU**  
THE PATIENT IS U

# TPIU Annual High School Writing & Art Contest

32 River Road Drive Essex, CT 06426

# Our Organization

***Founded in 2016, TPIU challenges healthcare workers to treat each patient as if “The Patient Is U”.***

Research has shown that compassionate care leads to improved patient outcomes, higher satisfaction, better communication, and increased treatment adherence. As an industry agent of change, TPIU empowers healthcare workers to practice greater compassion towards patients, colleagues, and themselves.

We work with doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers to inject thoughtfulness and the “human touch” into modern day healthcare. Throughout the years, we have sponsored and hosted mentorship programs, seminars, and public awareness campaigns, as well as recognized exceptional care providers in the industry. By continuously expanding our partnerships with local organizations, healthcare providers, and advocates, we can create a comprehensive system of care that truly puts patients first.

# Our Founder

***“The skills to treat, and the heart to care.”***

Dr. KJ Lee served as the President of the American Academy of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS), and Chairman of the Medical Board at the Hospital of St. Raphael. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University, his medical degree from Columbia University, and served as assistant clinical professor at Yale University’s School of Medicine.

Dr. Lee grew up in war-ravaged Penang, Malaysia as a child. His experiences with physical trauma and illness, suffered by himself or direct family members, made him committed to the principle of compassionate healthcare. In addition to his work for TPIU, Dr. Lee also established the annual CT Lee Lectureship on Humanistic Compassionate Care in the Department of Otolaryngology at the Yale School of Medicine. He is also the founder of CT Lee Endowed Lectureship in Spirituality at the Department of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery at Harvard through the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.





# The Competition

The TPIU Annual High School Writing & Art Contest encourages current high school students to reflect on **the universal theme of compassion**.

**The competition has two tracks:**

## Essay Category

Choose from the 4 prompts below, and write an essay with a 1200–1500 word limit.

### Prompts:

1. In your opinion, is compassion a natural human instinct or a nurtured societal virtue? Please elaborate using perspectives from philosophy, sociology, or theology.
2. “Justice without compassion becomes cruelty, but compassion without justice leads to moral blindness.” To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
3. The word “compassion” has Latin roots and means “to suffer with”, but different cultures’ interpretations vary. Examine two or more traditions’ (e.g. Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Confucianism) definition of compassion, and explore the universality– or limitation– of compassion.
4. Do you or your family members have personal experiences related to compassionate healthcare? Tell us the story.

## Art Category

Create a piece of 2D art reflecting the theme of compassion.

### Accepted forms include:

- **Drawing**  
pencil, ink, charcoal, pastel, etc.
- **Painting**  
acrylic, watercolor, oil, gouache, etc.
- **Mixed media**  
collage, textured work, etc.
- **Photography**
- **Digital illustration**

All submissions must be in the form of a **high quality digital image** in PDF or JPEG form.

## Who Can Compete

- Entrants must be currently enrolled in high school, currently enrolled in high school, or be home schooled at the high school level, by the time of submission.

## Key dates



**June 30**  
submission starts



**September 30**  
deadline



**October 15**  
winners announced

## How to Submit

- Each contestant is limited to **one** submission in **one** category.
- Submit your essay in PDF format, and artwork in PDF or JPEG format, titled “LastName\_FirstName\_Essay\_2025” or “LastName\_FirstName\_Art\_2025”.
- Include a cover page or side text with the following information in your attached file: your submission title, your full legal name, and your full school or institution name.
- Email this PDF as an attachment to **[competition@tpiu.org](mailto:competition@tpiu.org)**. Email title should be the same as your attachment title.
- Files should not exceed 5 MB.

# Rules

## In the Essay Category:

- The use of AI in the writing process of submitted drafts is strictly forbidden.
- All ideas and language should be original and by the contestant themselves.
- Plagiarism or the use of ghostwriters will result in disqualification.

## In the Art Category:

- Artworks generated by AI are currently not accepted. All submitted artworks must be created by humans.
- Please safely store the original hard copy of the artwork if you wish to be considered for the shortlisters' exhibit.

# Prizes

## Essay Category



**The Gold Medal**



**The Silver Medal**



**The Bronze Medal**



**The Shortlist**

## Art Category



**The Gold Medal**



**The Silver Medal**



**The Bronze Medal**



**The Shortlist**

Your work will receive an invitation to attend the TPIU annual gathering in November or December, with the chance to get to know esteemed guests such as our past honor roll attendees.



# The TPIU Annual Gathering

The Grand Prize winner in both categories will receive an invitation to attend the TPIU gathering in December.



Nancy Brown, MD,  
Dean Yale School of Medicine



Sandip K. Mukherjee, MD FACC,  
Yale Professor of Clinical Medicine



William Tong —  
Attorney General of Connecticut