

2022-2023 Korean Media Essay Contest Guidelines

Mission:

The GW Institute for Korean Studies (GWIKS) aims to introduce Korean culture through media to students enrolled in higher education institutions.

Eligibility:

The contest is open to undergraduate students who are enrolled in colleges or universities in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area [District of Columbia, Maryland, or Virginia] during the Fall 2022 semester.

How to participate:

- 1. Register** at go.gwu.edu/essay2022 by February 13, 2023.
- 2. Watch the Documentary:** You may view the documentary online for free [at this link](#).
- 3. Write the essay:** After watching the documentary, you will write an essay based on the judging criteria listed below. The essay has to be in the format of critical essay and must be from 5 to 6 pages in length.
- 4. Submit your essay:** Registered participants will be sent an online submission link where they can submit their final essay by **February 13, 2023**. Please submit your essay in either PDF or Word format and label the file as [Last Name, First Name_ Essay Title]. At the top of your essay, please include: your name, college/university, undergraduate year (i.e. sophomore, 2nd year), and your e-mail address.

Subject of Essay: *Sa-I-Gu*

"Sa-I-Gu," literally "April 29," is about the 1992 Los Angeles riots, which occurred following the acquittal of four white LAPD officers in the beating of a black motorist, Rodney King. Narrated three months after the event by Korean women shopkeepers, and using newsreel, family photographs, and interviews, Sa-I-Gu documents the little heard Korean perspective on the riots in which nearly half of the city's billion dollars in damages was suffered by Korean American mom and pop storeowners in South Central Los Angeles and nearby Koreatown. In the film, the women talk about coming to the US in search of the American Dream, their feelings toward the African American community, their demands for government compensation, and their hopes for better relations with their neighbors. Sa-I-Gu provides an important perspective for better understanding the Los Angeles riots, community studies, and ethnic relations and racism in the United States

(Retrieved from [ExEAS Asian American Filmography](#) at Columbia University)

Judging Criteria:

1. Writer demonstrates close reading and critical thinking of the documentary.
2. Writer articulates one or couple of concepts from the following: racial polarization, racial displacement, discursive constructs of the Self and Other power dynamic (which include victimization discourse), racial structure based on education, economics, and geopolitical communities, or systems of violence from the U.S. federal level, state level, and down to the community level.
3. Writer clearly explains how the director retells the history of the event? What is the director's perspective, and how does the director utilize footage and interviews to project the event?
4. Writer demonstrates a deep understanding of the social, political, economic, and cultural context of the event, and is able to integrate the context in the writing.
5. Writer's essay demonstrates clarity, structure, spelling, grammar, and usage.

Rules:

- Essays must be no shorter than 5 pages and no longer than 6 pages in length.
- Essays should be word processed in 12-point Times New Roman font, and double spaced.
- One entry per contestant is permitted.
- All entries must be written in English.
- We reserve the right to use all submitted pieces in future publications of Gwiks with no compensation to the authors.
- Winners are announced by mid-March. The time to announce the winners is subject to change depending on the number of total entries received. The award ceremony will be held on March 29, 2023.

Prizes:

- First Place (1): \$500
- Second Place (1): \$300
- Third Place (1): \$100

Registration Deadline and Submission Deadline: 11:59 PM EST, February 13, 2023