

# Shall We Put Together An Essay Contest With A Prize Of An Annual "Torquatus Award For Excellence In Epicurean Advocacy"?

Post by "Cassius" of October 12, 2025 at 4:22 PM

I realized something in recording the Lucretius Today podcast today. Our topic was Cicero's challenge that it is impossible to advocate for the Epicurean in public - that in Cicero's words we "*dare not plead for either in the senate, or before the assembly of the people, or before the army, or the censors.*" (*Tusculan Disputations 3:21*)

As far as I am aware there are essentially TWO examples of Epicurean advocacy in existence which - with only slight modification, if any - would be suitable for delivery to a public assembly:

1. The first is the delivery by Torquatus of his defense of Epicurus in On Ends Book 1, which we have [here](#). This is probably far and away the all-time preeminent piece of Epicurean advocacy in existence.
2. The second is the letter of Cosma Raimondi [here](#). This would require slight modification as in its current form it is addressed to a single person, but the changes necessary to format it for delivery to a larger audience would be minimal.

Am i missing something that fits the same description? Something that with minimal changes could be delivered by an advocate such as a lawyer to a jury or a senator to the senate, especially in a context in which it is seen as a response to an attack on the Epicurean school?

Hopefully there are other examples, but asking the question brings up the obvious point that there need to be more. **Many** more.

At this point it's just an idea but it makes perfect sense to me so sponsor the equivalent of the old "Essay Contest" style of event in which we offered a prize for the best submission over a specified period of time.

Starting simple might involve just an essay, but let's face it we are in 2025 and with AI audio and video generation, and good written submission can be brought to life rather easily audio-visually , with text to speech and at least slideshow accompaniment. We should probably also require that the final product be dedicated to the public domain and therefore be shareable by anyone on any social media or other location.

I'll probably start thinking about setting this up as a future project, but before I do does anyone have any ideas about how we might fine-tune the idea? if so I'll work to incorporate that in a competition "prospectus" that would describe the required format, goal of the competition, and any style guidelines that might be appropriate.

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4758-shall-we-put-together-an-essay-contest-with-a-prize-of-an-annual-torquatus-award/>