



American Optometric Association  
Contact Lens and Cornea Section



## **Writing a CLCS Essay Paper is Easier than You Think**

Want to attend Optometry's Meeting®? Don't want to pay for travel costs? The American Optometric Association (AOA) Contact Lens and Cornea Section (CLCS) offer's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year optometry students and residents the opportunity to receive airfare and lodging to Optometry's Meeting® in exchange for writing a essay paper. I know what you maybe thinking, who has time to write a essay paper in the middle of the semester? For me I felt the same way. However, over the past two years I have had the pleasure of attending Optometry's Meeting® in both Seattle, WA and Washington D.C on the AOA: it can be done and it's easier than you think. Here are a few tips:

- Get a head start; you have a little over three months to write the paper (that's a whole summer), don't wait till the last minute
- Be organized: write an outline giving a topic for each section of the paper
- Spend time gathering as many journal articles over each topic, the more information, the better
- If you are writing a case report be sure to research the pathology or treatment in question
- Don't try to write the paper in one day, spread the topics over separate days or hours
- Be sure to cite your sources, follow the format used by reputable journal articles
- Finally, proofread and proofread again! Have a faculty member proofread the paper if you have time

Every optometry school has access to ophthalmic journals, and therefore everyone reading this testimonial has the opportunity to win! My experience with the scholarship program has allowed me to meet many of the brightest minds in the field of contact lenses and has also prepared me to write publish-worthy journal articles and case reports for the AAO. With hard work, the rewards are worth writing one extra paper this semester, best wishes everyone!