

Create a Win-Huynh situation

How to enter a contest (aka the money you deserve)



It's a Win-Huynh (pronounced 'win') scenario! My parents had a great sense of humor giving me a name that rhymes. **Linh Huynh is a name and also a mindset!**

I see every contest as an opportunity.

Most people won't even bother entering. Don't be like most people!

As they say, **fortune favors the bold**. Fortune also favors those who get off their butt and try.

To be a **#luckpusher** is to constantly explore ways to bring more into your life. There is so much that we haven't tapped into in this super awesome infinite universe. The way that I've done this is through contests.

Here are some tips for you to explore the contest world, and **create a Win-Huynh situation in your life:**

Never pay! I never spend money on entry fees. I have on the rare occasions. In general, contests should cost you nothing to enter.

Do read the fine print. Not all contests are available in all provinces or states. Check your eligibility. Are you able to accept the prize as is? Are you open for the dates? Are there any restrictions? Are there any conditions to accepting the prize?

Go for skill-based tasks. This usually deters a lot of people! Whether the task is writing an entry, shooting a video, etc – anything that requires even the tiniest effort will deter a lot of people (but not you).

Choose contests that align with who you are. Think of your hobbies and interests. I love cooking and submitted a recipe to a "Canada's Best Sandwich Contest." I made it as a finalist and was flown to Toronto to compete. Around that time, I had also entered a contest for driving lessons with a Formula 1 driver. I'm not at all surprised I didn't win that one!

If there is a word count limit – awesome! This is when I would toss away the 'ol, "keep it short" rule. No, in fact, try to get as close to that word count as possible. This shows your effort and your commitment.

Check out your competition!?!? If the entries are posted online, make sure you check them out so you know your competition. You can easily set yourself apart by writing clearly, with well structured sentences, and you would never believe how capitalization and punctuation can go a long way.

"Anything worth doing, is worth doing well," as my mom always says. Take this seriously. I once spent 10 hours writing, editing and rewriting an entry that was only 359 words. I took my time to craft each sentence. Boy, was it worth the effort because that 10 hours yielded a \$10,000 prize.

Avoid random entries. I generally don't enter sweepstakes or contests that are random draws. The probability of winning is based purely on chance. Since the outcome is so small, I put in the appropriate level of effort: little to none.

Avoid online voting. I avoid contests that end in a vote online. It is incredibly hard to rally all your people to vote. Unless you're a big deal with thousands of friends, then by all means, go for it. But remember that some votes go on for days or weeks, you don't want to hassle your friends constantly for their support.

Go for entries that are judged. I enter contests that are judged. In my experience, I have fared much better on contests that are determined by judges – no random draw, no online voting, no requirement to share a link.

Keep in mind that you **Win (Huynh) some** and **lose some**.

If you don't get the grant, get off your butt and **try again!**

