2014 Liberal Arts Essay Contest

Sponsored by Washington Consortium for the Liberal Arts

The Washington Consortium for the Liberal Arts (WaCLA) (www.evergreen.edu/provost/wacla/home.htm) advocates for the importance of a liberal arts education and believes that the voices of those who are benefiting from such an education are profoundly persuasive. In an effort to let those voices be heard, we invite undergraduate students at WaCLA institutions to participate in an essay contest.

Submissions must address the following prompt:

In 2012, Washington STEM's Sandi Everlove and Washington Consortium for the Liberal Arts Chair Michael Zimmerman stated in a Seattle Times OpEd:

> *"When an imaginary controversy is promoted between STEM disciplines and the liberal arts, all it does is divert our attention from focusing on the larger problems associated with the lack of public funding for higher education. Such false controversies make poor public policy."*

With that conflict in mind, please respond to the following adage: "Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."

Eligibility: The essay contest is open to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in WaCLA member institutions (http://www.evergreen.edu/provost/wacla/waclamembers.htm). Entrants will be divided into two categories: students who have freshman or sophomore standing at their institution and those who have junior or senior standing. Each institution will pre-screen entries and submit no more than three essays in each category to be judged statewide.

Length and Format: 500 words maximum submitted in a Microsoft Word document that is double-spaced with centered title and 12 point font. Submission for school consideration should include a WaCLA cover page (see form next page).

Deadline and Submission Instructions: Each institution will promote the essay contest, create internal submission deadlines, and collect and judge submissions as they think appropriate. Once schools have selected the essays they wish to advance for statewide consideration, submissions should be done electronically by the students using instructions given in the "***School & student submission instructions for WaCLA statewide judging***" document that was sent with this announcement. WaCLA member institutions must have students submit their pre-screened essays by May 1, 2014.

Please note that we are using Humanities Washington's grant application system to gather essays. For technical questions about the web application system, please contact Julie Ziegler (julie@humanities.org) at Humanities Washington. Please contact Michael Zimmerman at The Evergreen State College (mz@evergreen.edu) with all questions related to essay submission and contest logistics and promotion.

Prizes: Awards will be made in two categories: **freshmen/sophomores** and **juniors/seniors**. Two awards will be made in each category: $1,000 for first place and $750 for second place. Winners will be announced by June 6, 2014.

Questions: Michael Zimmerman, The Evergreen State College, mz@evergreen.edu (Questions re. contest)
Julie Ziegler, Humanities Washington, julie@humanities.org (Questions re. application system)

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Cover Page

_____ _____
Student Name College/University

_____ _____
E-mail Address

_____

_____ _____
Mailing Address Phone

_____
Title of Essay

I am currently a: _____ freshman _____ sophomore _____ junior _____ senior

I agree that my home institution and the Washington Consortium for the Liberal Arts have the right to disseminate my essay in any way they deem appropriate as long as I receive credit for having written it.

_____ _____
Signature Date