ANNOUNCING THE 2019 ANNUAL UW-MADISON LIBERAL ARTS ESSAY COMPETITION

Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison General Education Committee

This Year’s Topic:
Albert Einstein once said, “all religions, arts, and sciences are branches from the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man’s life, lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom.”*

As a UW-Madison student, you are engaged in learning that is both broad and deep. Through your major(s) you are learning to think deeply within the context of a discipline, and through the General Education Requirements you are exploring many different branches of knowledge. Together, these experiences are designed to help prepare you to contribute and flourish in a multicultural, complex, and ever-changing world; a world that is increasingly characterized by disagreements about what constitutes truth and reality. Using specific examples from UW-Madison courses you have taken, describe how your education thus far has prepared you to be an effective citizen in this time of competing and contested “truths” and realities. How will your deep and broad education lead you to freedom?


Strong student essays will invite reader engagement through description and reflection on personal experience, as well as demonstrate careful consideration of the prompt. To learn more about the goals of a liberal education you may wish to check the liberal education learning outcomes at http://www.aacu.org/leap/vision.cfm.
Past winning essays from a related competition can be reviewed here.

NOTE: All submissions are to be original essays, 1,000-1,250 words in length, typed, double-spaced. Each essay must include a title page with the following information: title of essay, student’s name, major, college and home address, e-mail address, telephone number, and the following statement: “I hereby affirm that this is an original essay and my own work.” It is recommended to upload Microsoft Word or a pdf document.

Awards:
2 finalists will be selected by the University General Education Committee. The 1st place essay prize is $1,000 and the 2nd place prize is $500.

Eligibility:
This competition is open to all UW-Madison undergraduates (regardless of school or college) in good academic standing with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Instructions/Submission/Selection:
The UW-Madison deadline for submission of essays is Monday, March 4, 2019 by 11:59 p.m. Essays must be uploaded through WiSH. Final selection of winning essays will be determined by a subcommittee of the Undergraduate Education Committee. Recipients will be notified in Spring 2019.
Essay Workshop Featured at Writing Center:
A workshop session will be offered by the Writing Center on the Liberal Arts Essay Competition. If you are entering the Liberal Arts Essay competition, you'll definitely want to reserve a spot. The workshop date will be announced in early January.

Please contact scholarships@saa.ls.wisc.edu, 262-2941 with questions.