

# 2018 Liberal Arts Essay Contest

Sponsored by **Washington Consortium for the Liberal Arts**

The Washington Consortium for the Liberal Arts (WaCLA) ([www.gonzaga.edu/wacla](http://www.gonzaga.edu/wacla)) 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:

*A liberal arts education values ways of knowing that cross the humanities, the arts, and the social, natural, and physical sciences. Engaging in a multifaceted approach to knowledge inspires creative responses to a range of important topics and pressing issues. Drawing on your experience with a specific topic or issue, discuss the importance of the liberal arts as a means of engaging with the present and shaping our individual and collective future.*

**Eligibility:** The essay contest is open to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in WaCLA member institutions (<https://www.gonzaga.edu/college-of-arts-sciences/about/wacla/member-institutions>). Entrants will be divided into two categories: students who have freshman or sophomore standing at their institution and those who have junior and senior standing. Each institution will pre-screen entries and submit no more than three essays in each category for statewide judging.

**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, please contact Matt Bahr at Gonzaga University ([bahr@gonzaga.edu](mailto:bahr@gonzaga.edu)) for final instructions on electronic submission requirements. WaCLA member institutions should have their pre-screened essays ready for submission by May 29, 2018.

**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 15, 2018.

**Questions:** Matt Bahr, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Gonzaga University,  
[bahr@gonzaga.edu](mailto:bahr@gonzaga.edu)

Washington Consortium for the Liberal Arts  
2017-18 Liberal Arts Essay Contest

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