**Scholarships for High School 9-12 graders**

**Disclaimer:**

Scholarship Sharing has posted all information from public sources including the internet, libraries, and foundations. The information posted has been screened for legitimacy by checking the scholarship’s background and long term standing, however please be aware that Scholarship Sharing cannot be held liable in the event of a scholarship being a scam. Please apply for scholarships with caution and use your own judgments when completing applications.

Please read these quick tips to spot a scam:

1. Money flows to the student only. Reputable scholarships never charge you to apply.
2. Asking for membership to an organization is not the same paying to apply for a scholarship. Check the history of the organization, their membership benefits, and make sure their payment method is secure. Never pay in cash. Always get a receipt for proof to dispute a charge with your bank if needed.
3. Guarantees = lies. No scholarship is a guaranteed win.
4. Do not apply if the scholarship application is asking for non-relevant personal information. For example: maiden name, pet name, first school you attended, email password.
5. Leave a website immediately if they claim they have exclusive scholarships. Legitimate scholarship search engines or foundations always post scholarships which are public to others.
6. Be aware of the scholarships you applied for. Consider using our tracking sheet, if you want one you can download it at the top of the Aid Database page! Don’t ever send back information or money if you receiving letters of potential awards you don’t recognize or remember.

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**High School Scholarships**

**Ayn Rand Anthem Essay Scholarship**

<https://www.aynrand.org/students/essay-contests>

Deadline: March 25, 2016

Eligibility: 8th, 9th and 10th Graders

FIRST PRIZE: $2,000

5 SECOND PRIZES: $500

10 THIRD PRIZES: $200

45 FINALISTS: $50

175 SEMIFINALISTS: $30

Essays will be judged on both style and content. Judges will look for writing that is clear, articulate and logically organized. Winning essays must demonstrate an outstanding grasp of the philosophic meaning of Anthem.

**Rules:**

• No application is required. Contest is open to students worldwide.

• Entrant must be in the 8th, 9th or 10th grade.

• To avoid disqualification, mailed in essays must include a stapled cover sheet with the following information:

o your name and address;

o your e-mail address (if available);

o the name and address of your school;

o topic selected (#1, 2 or 3 from list above);

o your current grade level; and

o (optional) the name of the teacher who assigned the essay, if you are completing it for classroom credit.

• Essay must be no fewer than 600 and no more than 1,200 words in length, and double-spaced.

• One entry per student.

• The Ayn Rand Institute has the right to provide contest deadline extensions when deemed appropriate.

• Essay must be solely the work of the entrant. Plagiarism will result in disqualification.

• Decisions of the judges are final.

• Employees of the Ayn Rand Institute, its board of directors and their immediate family members are not eligible for this contest. Past first place winners are not eligible for this contest.

• All entries become the property of the Ayn Rand Institute and will not be returned.

• Contest winners agree to allow the Ayn Rand Institute to post their names on any of ARI’s affiliated websites. The winning first place essay may be posted in its entirety on any of these websites with full credit given to the author.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**The Fountainhead Essay Contest**

<https://www.aynrand.org/students/essay-contests#thefountainhead-1>

Deadline: April 29, 2016

Eligibility: 11th and 12th Graders

FIRST PRIZE: $10,000

5 SECOND PRIZES: $2,000

10 THIRD PRIZES: $1,000

45 FINALISTS: $100

175 SEMIFINALISTS: $50

Essays will be judged on both style and content. Judges will look for writing that is clear, articulate and logically organized. Winning essays must demonstrate an outstanding grasp of the philosophic meaning of The Fountainhead.

Essay submissions are evaluated in a fair and unbiased four-round judging process. Judges are individually selected by the Ayn Rand Institute based on a demonstrated knowledge and understanding of Ayn Rand’s works. To ensure the anonymity of our participants, essay cover sheets are removed after the first round. Winners’ names are unknown to judges until after essays have been ranked and the contest results finalized. The Ayn Rand Institute checks essays with Ithenticate plagiarism detection software.

To avoid disqualification, mailed in essays must include a stapled cover sheet with the following information:

1. Your Name And Address;
2. Your E-Mail Address (If Available);
3. The Name And Address Of Your School;
4. Topic Selected (#1, 2 Or 3 From List Above);
5. Your Current Grade Level; And
6. (Optional) The Name Of The Teacher Who Assigned The Essay, If You Are Completing It For Classroom Credit.
7. Essay Must Be No Fewer Than 800 And No More Than 1,600 Words In Length And Double-Spaced.

Winners, finalists, semifinalists and all other participants will be notified via e-mail and/or by mail

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**Frasier Institute Essay Scholarship**

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/education-programs/students/essay-contest>

Deadline: June 1, 2016

Showcase your ideas on public policy and the role of markets by entering our essay competition.

* **$9,000** in cash prizes awarded this year.
* Special category for high school students only.
* Winning essays may be published in Fraser Institute journals.

**Categories and Prizes**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **High School** | **Undergraduate** | **Graduate** |
| 1st Prize: **$1,500** | 1st Prize: **$1,500** | 1st Prize: **$1,500** |
| 2nd Prize: **$1,000** | 2nd Prize: **$1,000** | 2nd Prize: **$1,000** |
| 3rd Prize: **$500** | 3rd Prize: **$500** | 3rd Prize: **$500** |

2016 Topic: Small change – Big impact: Improving quality of life one policy change at a time

We are looking for the next big idea in policy reform. Identify a single, specific, practical policy change that will have a big impact on the quality of lives (the social and/or economic well-being) of citizens. Your policy change can be applied to any level of government (local, provincial, or federal) in Canada or the United States. The policy change does not have to be an original idea – it can already have been successfully implemented in another country or jurisdiction.

Your essay should use empirical analysis to measure the impact the policy reform would have. Cite research to support your policy, including historical evidence, if applicable. Your essay should demonstrate an understanding of competitive markets and/or an understanding of the impact of government intervention.

You can look at policy reform in a variety of areas including taxation, trade, technology, aboriginal issues, education, health care, the environment, energy, crime, regulation, etc.

Specific examples of policy changes are the introduction of the TFSAs, TILMA, physician co-pays, incentive pay for teachers, legalizing marijuana, etc.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**FFRF William J. Schulz High School Essay Contest**

<https://ffrf.org/outreach/ffrf-student-scholarship-essay-contests>

Deadline: postmarked by June 1, 2016

For College-Bound High School Seniors  
First Place: William J. Schulz Award — $3,000  
Second Place — $2,000  
Third Place — $1,000  
Fourth Place — $500  
Fifth Place — $300  
Honorable Mention(s) — $200  
  
Choose one of the two topics below:

**"The challenges of growing up a freethinker"**

Write a personal (first-person) essay about challenges or problems you have faced as a young freethinker. Did you grow up in a home with devout parents? Were you forced to attend a private religious school or church? Were you ever bullied or put down for your freethinking? Did you have to hide your true thoughts from others for fear of repercussions? Explain how you overcame the prejudices of others, and why you are free from religion, including at least a sentence or two about why you reject religion.

**"Why Boy Scouts of America should welcome atheists and nonbelievers"**

Write a persuasive open letter to Boy Scouts of America from a personal (first person) point of view about why the Boy Scouts should revoke its bigoted policy officially barring nonreligious boys and their families from membership. The organization recently lifted its homophobic membership ban, but continues to "maintain that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing his obligation to God." Explain why believing in a god is not synonymous with being moral, and why you as a nonbeliever consider yourself a good person and citizen. You may wish to cite the examples of nonbelievers who have contributed to society. Include at least a short paragraph explaining why you are a nonbeliever. (If you are/were a member of the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, you may wish recount your experiences.)

**Word length**: 350-500 words.

**Eligibility**: North American high school senior who graduates in spring 2016, going on to college in fall 2016.

**Submission rules**: Essays must be both mailed and emailed. Email your essay to [highschoolessay@ffrf.org](mailto:highschoolessay@ffrf.org) with subject heading "Essay [and Your Full Name]." Follow other requirements listed below.

Other requirements: Submit essay both by mail and email by postmark deadline. No faxes. Essay must be typed, double-spaced, standard margins and stapled. Include word count. Place name and essay title on each page. Choose own title. Attach a one-paragraph biography on separate page at end of essay including name, age and birth date, hometown, university or college, year in school, major or intended major, degree being earned and interests. Include high school's name, city, state and date of graduation as well as intended college. Do not include a résumé.

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**Chameleon John Scholarship**

<http://www.chameleonjohn.com/scholarship>

Deadline: December 1, 2016

We decided to establish a $3,000 annual scholarship to help University students across the country, who are struggling financially. The $3,000 scholarship will be awarded to one student and help them cover their tuition fees. The money will be transferred to their University's account.

Scholarship for current or future (next year) students can apply for the scholarship. The $3,000 scholarship will be awarded to one student and the money will have to be used to cover tuition fees.

Application Requirements

* Your desired University must be in the United States;
* You must answer all questions in our application form;
* You must choose one of the Universities from our list of schools.

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**We the Future Scholarship**

<http://constitutingamerica.org/downloads.php>

Deadline: September 17, 2016

To enter the We The Future Contest:

1. Sign up online here: <http://www.constitutingamerica.org/contestsignup.php>

2. Fill out the permission form that must accompany every entry: <http://www.constitutingamerica.org/docs/WeTheFutureContestPermission.pdf>

3. Choose from the below list of entry options for your age group.

4. Create your entry and send it to us by designated deadline

That's it! We look forward to receiving your entry!

We The Future Contest Categories:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (Grades K-5)

NEW SHORT FILM CATEGORY (open to adults ages 25 & up)

NEW SENIOR ADULT ESSAY CATEGORY

Sponsored by American House Senior Living Communities (open to adults ages 65 & older)

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**Negative Population Growth Scholarship**

<http://www.npg.org/scholarship/npg-2015-essay-contest.html>

Deadline:

Photo Scholarship entries are due by 5:00 pm Eastern Time on April 8, 2016.

Written Advertisement Scholarship entries must be received by April 22, 2016. Those postmarked prior to due date but received after the deadline will NOT be accepted.

Each year, NPG offers an Essay Scholarship Contest for students across the country. Contestants are invited to answer a population-related question, with their own experience and insight guiding their ideas for a solution. Both contests are open to high school seniors, as well as currently-enrolled college undergraduates. Winners will receive a designated scholarship amount, paid towards undergraduate tuition at the accredited college or university they attend.

**Create a Written Advertisement appropriate for a magazine or newspaper. Ads must be at least 100 words but not more than 200 words**. Your ad should persuade the general public to support programs that are designed to slow, halt, and eventually reverse U.S. population growth. The ad should be text only, original and entirely the student’s work. The key issue to be addressed in your ad is U.S. population size and growth, which may include topics such as fertility and immigration rates – the two factors which most influence our nation’s overall population numbers. You may also address the negative consequences of U.S. overpopulation, such as: environmental damage, natural resource depletion, deterioration of infrastructure, economic strain, etc. **Ad submissions should not include pictures**. You may suggest a picture you think would complement your ad, however the ad will be judged on text only. At the completion of the contest, submissions may be used by NPG for advertising purposes.

The NPG Scholarship Committee will select multiple winning advertisements. Ads will be judged based on the quality of writing, originality, relevance to topic, and evidence of critical thinking.

**Photography Scholarship**

Multiple Prizes from $500 to $1,500!

NPG, a national membership organization devoted to population issues, invites students to compete in our Photography Scholarship Contest.

Without critical changes, U.S. population is projected to reach 400 million people by mid-century.  Submit your photo of a threatened U.S. environmental treasure that you believe is worth protecting, along with an explanation (40-50 words) of how population growth has put this treasure at risk.

The NPG Scholarship Committee will select multiple winning photographs. Photographs will be judged based on originality, relevance to topic, and evidence of critical thinking. All decisions are within the discretion of NPG Scholarship judges and all decisions are final. All scholarships will be paid directly to the accredited college or university account of the winning student(s). Official Contest information is available on our website (www.NPG.org).

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**Brandon Goodman Scholarship**

<http://bgscholarship.com/>

Deadline: March 31, 2016

**Deadline Info:**

Applications are available on the BGScholarship website.

In addition to a completed application applicants must also submit an essay about his/her academic goals and contributions to his/her school and/or community.  
  
There are 12 deadlines each year for this award, but a student may apply only once per academic year. His/her application will be valid for the upcoming deadline date only.

**Recipients:**

12 awards offered annually.

**Award Amount:**

$300 annually, non-renewable.

**Requirements:**

* This award is for U.S. and international students.
* Must have a grade point average of 2.0 or higher.
* Must be a high school student or undergraduate student at time of application.

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**McDonalds Scholarship Fund**

<http://www.rmhc.org/rmhc-us-scholarships>

Deadline:

The next likely dates for the scholarship re-opening are October 1, 2016, students may apply online. Graduating high school seniors may only apply for one of the four scholarships. The deadline for the 2016 academic year is January 20, 2017 at 11:59 PM Central Time Zone, and all mailed back-up documents must be postmarked by the same date.

Applicants will be notified of scholarship award status by June 30, 2017.

Scholarships are for students in the United States living in areas where there are participating local RMHC Chapters. View the complete list of participating RMHC Chapters, their respective counties and the scholarships they offer in the link above.

HOW TO APPLY:

Graduating high school seniors may **ONLY** apply for **ONE** of the four scholarships.

To apply for an RMHC scholarship, a student must:

* Be a high school senior
* Be younger than 21 years old
* Be eligible to attend a two- or four-year college, university or technical school with a full course of study
* Be a legal U.S. resident
* Live in a participating RMHC Chapter's geographic area
* Submit a complete application and all required documentation by the deadline of the application
* Meet any additional eligibility requirements outlined by each scholarship program
* Provide verification of enrollment each year at respective accredited post-secondary institution

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**Brandon Goodman Scholarship**

<http://bgscholarship.com/>

Deadline: March 31, 2016

**Deadline Info:**

Applications are available on the BGScholarship website.

In addition to a completed application applicants must also submit an essay about his/her academic goals and contributions to his/her school and/or community.  
  
There are 12 deadlines each year for this award, but a student may apply only once per academic year. His/her application will be valid for the upcoming deadline date only.

**Recipients:**

12 awards offered annually.

**Award Amount:**

$300 annually, non-renewable.

**Requirements:**

* This award is for U.S. and international students.
* Must have a grade point average of 2.0 or higher.
* Must be a high school student or undergraduate student at time of application.

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**Courage to Grow Scholarship**

<http://www.couragetogrowscholarship.com/>

Deadline: March 31, 2016

You must be a junior or senior in high school or college student with a minimum GPA of 2.5 or better. U.S. citizens only please. Write an essay and explain in 250 words or less why you believe that you should be awarded this scholarship.

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**What Can’t You Live Without Scholarship**

<http://www.powerpoetry.org/poetry-slams/all-i-need-scholarship-slam>

Deadline: April 15, 2016

We all know this familiar question: If you were stranded on a deserted island, what's the one thing you would take with you? You might be quick to answer with your favorite book or an empty journal to fill with all the new existential thoughts you'd have while on an island by yourself. Well, we want to take this challenge a step further.

What is the one thing you can't live without? Is it a person, an object, or even an idea that you hold close to your heart? Tell us in a poem about the importance of the one thing you feel you absolutely need and why, for your chance to win.

**Eligibility:**

1. The basic requirements are this: (1) you are 25 years of age (or younger), and (2) you are a current or former high school student who will attend or is attending college within the U.S. or its territories.
2. Add an original poem to Power Poetry by Friday, April 15, 2016. You'll need to [register as a member](http://www.powerpoetry.org/user/register) of our community first.

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**AES Engineers**

<http://www.aesengineers.com/scholarships.htm>

Deadline: October 6, 2016

Students must submit an essay of between 500 and 1000 words in answer to the following question:

When you look back on your life in 30 years, what would it take for you to consider your life successful? What relationships or accomplishments will be important on this journey?

Amount of award: $500.00

Submit essay to: scholarships@aesengineers.com

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Environmental Essay Contest**

<http://www.wolfoundation.org/guidelines/>

Deadline: September 30, 2016

Everyone is welcome to apply regardless of age, citizenship, or school. Any one individual may submit up to three entries. Essays should be aimed at a general readership and should be non-technical. No footnotes or citations are allowed. Submissions should be no longer than 2,000 words. Essays may have been published before provided you have the necessary permissions to re-publish.

DO NOT USE THE THEME TITLE AS THE TITLE OF YOUR ESSAY. BE CREATIVE.

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------Cashstore Scholarship**

<http://www.cashstore.com/scholarship>

Deadline: re-opens May 10, 2016

The Cash Store, in partnership with [Scholarship America](http://scholarshipamerica.org/), will be offering five individual $1,000 scholarships for people who are continuing their college education. We encourage everyone who is furthering their college education to apply for our scholarships.

All applicants must meet the following criteria:

* 25 years if age or older at the time of application.
* U.S. Citizens.
* High school graduates, a current undergraduate, or graduate student.
* Enrolled as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocation/technical school for the entire academic year located within the 50 United States, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, or the US Virgin Islands.
* Students with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent).

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Project Yellow Light Scholarship**

<http://projectyellowlight.com/>

Deadline: April 1, 2016

**Award:**

For both the high school and college contests, the first-place winner will receive a scholarship in the amount of $5,000. Second-place finisher will receive $2,000. Third-place finisher will receive $1,000.

In addition to a scholarship, the winning video will be turned into an Ad Council PSA and will be distributed nationally to 1,600 TV stations.

**Eligibility:**

* This scholarship is for high school seniors who will complete their high school graduation requirements by or before July; and college students who will be attending school through July.
* To qualify for this scholarship, applicants must be legal residents of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia.

**About the video:**

To apply for this scholarship, applicants must create and submit a video designed to motivate, persuade, and encourage teens to not text while driving.

* Videos are limited to either exactly 25 seconds or exactly 55 seconds.
* We want to see your personal expression come through in your video. You can video yourself, a group of people, make a cartoon; whatever moves you. Just make sure it's in good taste.
* Applicants may apply in teams, but no more than four per team.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Ayn Rand’s novels**

Deadlines: Vary by grade please see website! Open to grades 8 +

<http://aynrandnovels.org/essay-contests.html>

Ayn Rand’s novels are inspiring and intellectually challenging. But they can also be financially rewarding for high school and college students. The Ayn Rand Institute sponsors annual essay contests that offer 600 prizes and $100,000 in prize money every year.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Odenza Marketing Group Scholarship**  
<http://www.odenzascholarships.com/awards/8/eligibility_odenza_marketing_group_scholarship.php>

Deadline: March 30, 2016

Award Value: $500

To be considered eligible for the Odenza Marketing Scholarship you must:  
  
A) Be between the ages of 16 and 25 on March 30, 2016  
  
B) Submit answers to the essay questions, which can be found on the application page, prior to the March 30th, 2016.  
  
C) Have at least one full year of post-secondary studies remaining at the time of the award. (Current High School Students are also eligible.)

D) Have a GPA of 2.5 or greater.  
  
E) Be a citizen of the United States or Canada

F) You may take any field of study as long as you are attending a program that is at an accredited institution.

Read more about [Eligibility for the Odenza Marketing Group Scholarship](http://www.odenzascholarships.com/awards/8/eligibility_odenza_marketing_group_scholarship.php)

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**Lehman Scholarship**

<http://www.naacpldf.org/herbert-lehman-education-fund-scholarship>

Deadline: May 1, 2016

Lehman Scholarships are awarded to students of outstanding character who are entering college for the first time or who are beginning their sophomore years in college and who will be attending an accredited four-year college or university as a full-time undergraduate student.

Awards generally do not exceed four years.

Students who are interested in applying for Herbert Lehman Scholarships are strongly encouraged to review the eligibility criteria and program description before submitting an application.

Eligibility:

The Herbert Lehman Scholarship is a national, highly competitive scholarship program that makes annual awards to qualified, outstanding undergraduate students.

Herbert Lehman Scholarships were initially awarded to help African-American students attend formerly segregated four-year colleges and universities in the South and to increase the number of African-Americans in the legal profession. Today the scholarship is open to students of all races and the mission of the Herbert Lehman Fund is to help transform the promise of racial equality into a social, economic, and political reality for all people by supporting talented undergraduate students who need financial help to stay in school and successfully complete their bachelor’s degree.

Lehman Scholarship candidates must be of excellent character and be able to present strong academic records, test scores, and personal essays. A candidate must have a demonstrable record of community and school involvement that reveals exceptional leadership potential with a capacity to work well in diverse settings. Moreover, s/he must provide strong recommendations from teachers, community representatives, or employers.

Lehman Scholarship applicants may be seniors in high school, high school graduates or freshmen currently enrolled in college or university. Successful Lehman Scholarship applicants must be planning to attend or currently attending an accredited, four-year college or university.

If you are unable to download the application, please send a note of inquiry to the scholarship programs at scholarships@naacpldf.org or by writing to:

The Herbert Lehman Education Fund

c/o NAACP LDF

40 Rector Street, 5th floor

New York, NY 10006

You must include an email address with your note.

Applicants are expected to give considerable care to the preparation of their application, including their essays and supporting documents. They should remember the following:

Applications that are incomplete, late or do not otherwise conform to instructions, will not be reviewed.

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**Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes**

<http://barronprize.org/apply/>

Deadline: April 15, 2016

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes celebrates inspiring, public-spirited, highly diverse young people from all across America. Each year, the Barron Prize honors twenty-five outstanding young leaders ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. The top ten winners each receive a $2,500 cash award to support their service work or higher education. The primary goal of the Prize is to shine the spotlight on these amazing young people so that their stories will inspire others.

Winners of the Barron Prize receive:

* $2,500 to be applied to their higher education or to their service project
* a recognition plaque
* a certificate of recognition
* a signed copy of The Hero's Trail, by Barron Prize founder T.A. Barron
* a copy of Dream Big, our new documentary film featuring several Barron Prize winners
* a heroes study guide, curriculum, and bibliography
* the opportunity to be paired with an adult mentor who is passionate about and working in the winner's area of interest
* the opportunity to connect with other Barron Prize winners through the Young Heroes Listserv
* numerous media opportunities – print, television, and radio

By submitting an entry in the **Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes**, each entrant acknowledges reading and understanding all the selection criteria and nomination requirements published on the Prize’s website and agrees to observe them. Further, each entrant acknowledges and agrees that as a condition of receiving the Prize, the selected individual will cooperate in publicizing the **Barron Prize**and will grant rights in the entrant’s nomination materials to the **Barron Prize**.

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**WyzAnt Tutoring's third annual college scholarship**

<http://www.wyzant.com/scholarships/v3/Apply.aspx>

Deadline: May 1, 2016, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time

WyzAnt Tutoring's third annual college scholarship contest is now open! Multiple prizes are up for grabs including a first place scholarship worth $10,000! WyzAnt promotes quality education with our tutoring services, but we don't stop there. We want to see students succeed and we're proud to offer scholarships that help deserving students each year.

Eligibility:

The College Scholarship Contest (the “Contest”) is only open to current legal US residents who are at least 16 years old and are enrolled in or expect to attend within the next two years, a two-year or four-year college or university within the United States during the Promotion Period.

To submit an entry the applicant must have or create an account on website.

Entrant must provide the name of the two-year or four-year college or university within the United States to which Entrant is enrolled or expects to be enrolled within the next two years.

Entrant must write an essay in English containing no more than 300 words answering the question: "Describe a person who has inspired you." The essay must be the sole original work of the Entrant.

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**Failure to Promise Essay Contest**

<http://www.fromfailuretopromise.com/#!essay-scholarship-contest--html/cfvg>

Deadline: July 31, 2016

Read the story of a student who went from flunking out of college, to becoming an engineer, professor, and dean of a university. Write an essay on the assigned topic.

Contestants must be high school seniors, undergraduate, and graduate-level college students with at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA, pursuing or planning to pursue a degree at an accredited college or university in the United States or Canada. Please email scholarships@fromfailuretopromise.com for additional questions or concerns.

First place winner: $10,000

Three honorable mentions: $500

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**NRA Defense Essay Contest**

<https://www.nradefensefund.org/contests-scholarships.aspx>

Deadline: December 1, 2016

The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund sponsors a scholarly writing contest for grades K-12. The theme for the essay is "What Does The Second Amendment Mean to You?"

All entries should be submitted to:

**NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund,  
Office of General Counsel,  
11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030  
Phone: (703) 267-1250**

**Description, Prizes & Deadline:** The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund continues its Yearly Youth Essay Contest celebrating the Second Amendment as an integral part of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Essays will be judged in two categories: Senior (grades 9-12) and Junior (grades 8 and below), with separate cash prizes awarded to the winners in each category. First place cash prizes are $1,000, $600 for second place, $200 for third place, and $100 for fourth place.

Essay contest winners will be selected and notified in early 2016. All entries become the property of the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund.

**Eligibility:** The contest is open to all students enrolled, or who will be enrolled, in an elementary, junior high, or high school during the academic year, including homeschooled students in an equivalent grade level, who have not previously received a prize in their category. For example, a previous winner in the junior category, who is now eligible for the senior category, may submit an entry.

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**Signet Essay Contest**

<http://www.penguin.com/services-academic/essayhome/>

Deadline: To be eligible, all entries must be postmarked by April 14, 2016 and received on or by April 21, 2016.  Submissions by fax, email or any other electronic means will not be considered.

With an unbeatable lineup of over 300 of the greatest literary works the world has ever known, Signet Classics is the publisher that students, education professionals and the public turn to more than any other. Now, we are proud to host our eighteenth annual Signet Classics Student Scholarship Essay Contest, in which five high school juniors or seniors can each win a $1,000 scholarship award to be used toward their higher education plus a Signet Classics library for their school! Essays must be submitted by a high school English teacher on behalf of students who write an essay on one of six topics for this year’s competition book, Little Women.

1. Open to 11th and 12th grade full-time matriculated students who are attending high schools located in the fifty United States and the District of Columbia, or home-schooled students between the ages of 16-18 who are residents of the fifty United States and the District of Columbia. Void where prohibited by law. All state and local restrictions apply.
2. Employees of Sponsor and its parent company, subsidiaries, affiliates or other parties in any way involved in the development, production or distribution of this Contest, as well as the immediate family (spouse, parents, siblings, children) and household members of each such employee are not eligible to participate in this Contest.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Rentacomputer Cares Scholarship**

<http://www.rentacomputer.com/cares/scholarships>

Deadline: May 31, 2016

Our Rentacomputer Cares Scholarship features a scholarship totaling $2,000 that is awarded to students who demonstrate strong academic and career goals. Applicants must be currently enrolled or planning to attend college within the next 12 months

Applicants must submit an essay of no more than 500 words describing their academic and career goals. The purpose of this essay is to demonstrate a strong motivation to succeed and the ability to plan ahead.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

* All applicants must meet the following requirements:
* Be currently attending college, or planning to attend college in the next 12 months
* Be a U.S. Citizen
* If currently enrolled in college, must have a minimum GPA of 2.5

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**Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program**

<http://www.vfw.org/Community/Voice-of-Democracy/>

Deadline: November 1, 2016

If you have questions, please contact the VFW National Headquarters at kharmer@vfw.org for assistance.

The Voice of Democracy Program is open to students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States and its territories.

How to Enter:

Students should record their reading of the draft to a CD. The recording can be no shorter than 3 minutes and no longer than 5 minutes (plus or minus 5 seconds).

Entries begin at the Post level. Once the student creates their essay and completes burning the audio version to a CD, they can submit their typed version, CD and the Voice of Democracy entry form to their local participating VFW Post by the November 1 deadline.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Originality is worth 30 points: Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest

Content is worth 35 points: Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to the other.

Delivery is worth 35 points: Speak in a clear and credible manner.

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**Blaze Wifi Scholarship**

<http://www.blazewifi.com/scholarship>

Deadline: 9:00PM (EST) on **June 1, 2016**

At this time our scholarship is open only to college-bound HS seniors and students enrolled full-time in an undergraduate or graduate level degree program at a college or university located in the United States. You can apply for the Blaze Wifi Scholarship for Rural Students if you meet the following criteria:

* You are a United States citizen or a permanent legal resident of the U.S.
* You are (1) a full-time student enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate-level degree program at an accredited college or university or (2) a high school senior planning to attend college in Fall 2014.
* You have a current grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher
* You are NOT an employee of or related to an employee of Blaze Wifi

Many people do not realize that rural areas are more at risk economically than larger cities and more populated areas of the United States. At Blaze Wifi, we want to promote education and the productive use of Internet technology to facilitate growth and positive change in these rural areas of our country.

We offer this scholarship with the sincere hope that the winner will relocated to a rural area of the United States after graduation and do their part in developing rural and underserved towns and cities in America.

To apply for the Blaze Wifi Rural Students Scholarship Program, write an in-depth blog post on the following topic:

**Do you prefer living in the city or out in the country more? Why? What are some benefits and drawbacks to each? If possible, support your argument with real life experiences.**

Publish an original personal essay of no fewer than 600 and no more than 1,000 words in length on any blog or website by the application deadline date (see below). Special consideration will be given to candidates who include photos and images in their posts!

In the body of your essay, **include a link back to the official Blaze Wifi website**([www.blazewifi.com](http://www.blazewifi.com/)). Look [here](http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_links.asp) for more information on how to create an HTML hyperlink.

If you don't have a personal blog already, you can start a free blog quickly and easily [here](http://wordpress.com/).

To be eligible to win the $500 Blaze Wifi Scholarship for Rural Students, you must submit your application to [scholarship@blazewifi.com](mailto:scholarship@blazewifi.com) and include the following information in the content of your email:

* Your first and last name
* Your degree program and expected graduation year
* A valid phone number and email address where you can be reached
* The full name of your high school, university or college
* The URL address where your application essay is published

**---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------Abbot and Fenner Scholarship**

<http://www.abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm>

Deadline: June 15, 2016

AWARD VALUE: $1,000

**Abbott & Fenner** are committed to continuing our efforts at helping those who have the desire and ambition to succeed.

The winner(s) of this annual scholarship will receive their award within 2 weeks of the listed deadline. All applicants should include their full name and mailing address with their submissions.

The A&F Scholarships are available to all high school juniors and seniors as well as all students currently registered in any accredited post secondary institution.

To apply for this scholarship you will need to write an essay on the topic below. The essay should be between 500 and 1000 words. Your submissions must be sent to us by email at: **scholarships@abbottandfenner.com**

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**B.Davis Scholarship**

<http://www.studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm>

Deadline: May 23, 2016

Award value: $1,000

This Scholarship is available to all high school juniors and seniors as well as all students currently registered in any post-secondary institution.

There is no age restriction.

Be sure to include your name and the school you are attending this year and next

This is not an academic scholarship but we would like to know where you are going to school now and what your future academic plans are. Please do not send transcripts or letters of recommendation at this time.

To apply for this scholarship you will need to write an essay of less than 1000 words on the topic below:

Your submissions must be sent to us by email at awards@studentawardsearch.com

“Describe the three characteristics of leadership you value most.  Discuss why you believe that these traits are so important and how you feel that they are developed in an individual.”

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**National Society of High School Scholars**

<https://www.nshss.org/member-benefits/scholarships/>

Deadlines: Each scholarship through the foundation has its own deadline. Please see website for specific deadlines.

NSHSS works to continuously provide scholarship opportunities to our members to defray the costs associated with college and life-changing educational programs. A variety of scholarships are available for high school students to support college tuition at the accredited college or university of the member’s choosing, study abroad programs and special leadership and skills development programs through NSHSS partners.

College members also have access to scholarships to further support their collegiate studies, as well as opportunities to attend exclusive conferences such as Clinton Global Initiative University and the annual Nobel Prize week festivities in Stockholm, Sweden.

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**Shawn Carter Foundation**

<http://www.shawncartersf.com>

Deadline: OpensApril 1, 2016 closes April 30, 2016 (11:59PM EST).

**Who is eligible to apply for the Shawn Carter scholarship?**  
All high school seniors, students with GED diplomas, undergraduate (2yr or 4yr) college students, and students at vocational or trade schools who meet the requirements below are eligible.

**Requirements:**

* US citizen or Permanent Resident
* 25 years old or younger
* Minimum 2.0 GPA

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**Reagan Foundation scholarship**

<http://www.reaganfoundation.org/ge-rfscholarships.aspx>

Deadline: Currently closed, last deadline Midnight CST, January 7, 2016 or until 50,000 applications are received whichever comes first

Each year, the Program selects numerous recipients to receive a $10,000 scholarship renewable for up to an additional three years – up to $40,000 total per recipient. Awards are for undergraduate and graduate study, and may be used for education-related expenses, including tuition, fees, books, supplies, room, and board. In addition, Scholars are invited to participate in a special awards program.

To be eligible for this award, applicants must:

* Demonstrate at school, at the workplace, and within the community the attributes of leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship;
* Demonstrate strong academic performance (minimum 3.0 grade point average/4.0 scale or equivalent);
* Demonstrate financial need;
* Be citizens of the united states of America;
* Be high school seniors attending high school in the United States, or any of the u.s. territories and commonwealths and graduating.
* Applicants living on a u.s. armed forces base and attending high school outside the u.s. are eligible. Home-schooled students who are graduating are also eligible.
* Plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study toward a bachelor’s degree at an accredited four-year college or university in the United States for the entire academic year.

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**Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation**

<http://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/applicants/#programs>

Deadline: currently closed. It will reopen in August 2016 and will accept applications from those students graduating from high school in 2017.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation supports over 1,400 college students each year, with annual scholarships of $3.45 million, through two nationally recognized programs. With the 25th class in 2013, the Foundation has provided over 5,250 Coca-Cola Scholars with more than $51 million in scholarships.

**The Coca-Cola Scholars Program Scholarship**is an achievement-based scholarship awarded to graduating high school seniors each year. Students are recognized for their capacity to lead and serve, and their commitment to making a significant impact on their schools and communities.

**Applicants must be:**

1. Current high school (or home-schooled) seniors attending school in the United States (or select DoD schools);
2. U.S. Citizens; U.S. Nationals; U.S. Permanent Residents; Refugees; Asylees; Cuban-Haitian Entrants; or Humanitarian Parolees;
3. Anticipating completion of high school diploma at the time of application;
4. Planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S. post-secondary institution;
5. Carrying a minimum 3.00 GPA at the end of their junior year of high school.

**Applicants may not:**

Be children or grandchildren of employees, officers or owners of Coca-Cola bottling companies, The Coca-Cola Company, Company divisions or subsidiaries.

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**Jimmy Rane Scholarship Foundation**

<http://www.jimmyranefoundation.org/index.php/scholarships/2-uncategorised/29-jimmy-rane-foundation-scholarship-eligibility-criteria>

Deadline:  currently closed, but will re-open. Last deadline was Feb 3, 2016

The eligibility criteria to be considered for a Jimmy Rane Foundation Scholarship are as follows:

http://www.jimmyranefoundation.org/images/bullet.png Students enrolled full-time as a high school senior, progressing normally toward graduation in the Spring/Summer, with plans to enter college no later than the Fall following graduation OR students enrolled fulltime as a college freshman or sophomore, no older than 20 years of age as of Aug 1 and progressing normally toward a bachelor’s degree

http://www.jimmyranefoundation.org/images/bullet.png Scholarships from the Foundation shall be used only at an institution that normally maintains a regular faculty and curriculum, and normally has a regularly organized body of students in attendance at the place where the educational activities are carried on, and that is listed by the U.S. Department of Education as being accredited by recognized accrediting agencies;

Note: Students seeking degrees through online or distance learning programs exclusively shall not be eligible for Jimmy Rane Foundation Scholarships\*

http://www.jimmyranefoundation.org/images/bullet.png A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 for graduating high school seniors;

http://www.jimmyranefoundation.org/images/bullet.png A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 for college applicants;

http://www.jimmyranefoundation.org/images/bullet.png U.S. citizenship or permanent resident;

http://www.jimmyranefoundation.org/images/bullet.png All applicants must reside (permanent home address) in one of the following states and the District of Columbia: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas, North Carolina, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Delaware and New Jersey.   
  
http://www.jimmyranefoundation.org/images/bullet.png Employees of Great Southern Wood Preserving, Incorporated, its parent, affiliates, subsidiaries, and their immediate family members and/or those living in the same household of each are not eligible.   
  
http://www.jimmyranefoundation.org/images/bullet.png Students must certify that they will not participate as a student athlete (whether on partial or full athletic scholarship or otherwise) in intercollegiate sports.

http://www.jimmyranefoundation.org/images/bullet.png Online/distance learning courses are permitted when a part of the required curriculum taught in the campus environment and when such course is only available online or through distance learning.

http://www.jimmyranefoundation.org/images/bullet.png Jimmy Rane Foundation scholars are students who exhibit academic excellence, leadership skills and community involvement as well as activities, awards and honors, and who have a demonstrated financial need in order to attend college. They must demonstrate their desire and ability to overcome barriers and to achieve their goals. Your application will be evaluated on your:

* Future goals and plans to achieve them;
* Successful preparation as a high school student to prepare and pursue a college education;
* Self-motivation in completing challenging coursework
* Demonstration of financial need.

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**The Lee-Jackson Foundation Scholarship**

<http://www.lee-jackson.org>

Deadline: Currently closed. Last deadline was February 5, 2016

Any junior or senior in a Virginia public or private high school or home school may apply. The student should not have received a Lee-Jackson scholarship in the past and must be a resident of Virginia who plans to attend an accredited four-year college or university in the United States as a full-time student. Students who intend to enroll in a community college must plan to enroll in the college transfer program of the community college. The contestant should demonstrate the natural ability to succeed in college and have a sincere desire to attend.

Students must complete the application form and file it with their school principal. The application must be accompanied by an essay on either General Lee or General Jackson, or both.

Any student is eligible to apply who is:

• a Virginia resident

• classified as a junior or senior in a Virginia public, private, or home high school

• has not won a Lee-Jackson scholarship before

• plans to attend a four-year accredited U.S. college, and later enrolls as a full-time student

**Financial need is not a consideration.** Should a student decide to attend a community college, he or she must enroll full-time, plan to transition to a four-year accredited U.S. college, and enroll in the school's college transfer program. A total of 18 scholarships will be awarded to students.

The Foundation will award one $2,000 scholarship and one $1,000 scholarship to students whose essays are judged to be the best in each of Virginia's eight public high school regions.

In addition, the Foundation will award one $2,000 scholarship and one $1,000 scholarship to private school or homeschooled students whose essays are judged to be the best from this sector.

An additional award of $8,000 will go to the public school, private school, or homeschooled student who authors the essay judged to be the best in the state. This student will receive a total award of $10,000.

A $1,000 award will be given to a school in each of the nine judging sectors in the name of the high school teacher or advisor who sponsors the most participating students in that sector.

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**The Vegetarian Resource Group Offers Two $5,000 College Scholarships**

<http://www.vrg.org/student/scholar.htm>

Deadline: Currently closed, last deadline was postmarked Feb 20, 2016

Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, The Vegetarian Resource Group each year will award $10,000 in college scholarship money to graduating U.S. high school students who have promoted vegetarianism in their schools and/or communities. Vegetarians do not eat meat, fish, or fowl. Two awards of $5,000 each will be given. **Entries may only be sent by students graduating from high school**. Early submission is encouraged.

Applicants will be judged on having shown compassion, courage, and a strong commitment to promoting a peaceful world through a vegetarian diet/lifestyle. Payment will be made to the student's college (U.S. based only). Winners of the scholarships give permission to release their names to the media. Applications and essays become property of The Vegetarian Resource Group. We may ask finalists for more information. Scholarship winners are contacted by telephone.

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**American Legion Oratorical Contest**

<http://www.legion.org/oratorical/about>

Deadline: Currently closed. Will re-open in December 2016.

Last deadline information:

Post Oratorical Contests: December 2015 – January 2016

District Oratorical Contests: January 2016

Region Oratorical Contests: February 2016

The Oratorical Contest presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

High school students vie for college scholarships awarded by The American Legion by demonstrating their knowledge of the United States Constitution in public speaking contests on local, regional and national levels.

The overall national contest winner gets an $18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home $16,000, and third gets $14,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest’s first round receives a $1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional $1,500 scholarship. The American Legion’s National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds. The contest caps off with a final round that decides the three top finishers.

Eligible participants must be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school). The curriculum of the school must be considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade 9 and terminating with grade 12. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. Contestants must either be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department that they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition through only one department.

High school students that graduate early during the school year are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the department finals contest.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; three- to five-minute speeches on an assigned topic also are part of the contest.

For more information contact:

Program Chairman Theresa Wahl (703) 257-1986

oratorical@legion.org

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**Burger King Scholarship**

<http://www.bkmclamorefoundation.org/WhatWeDo/ScholarsProgram>

Deadline: the application period is from October 15 through December 15 annually.

**Who is eligible to apply?**

All high school seniors may apply.

In addition there are scholarships separately for BURGER KING® restaurant, corporate and field employees, their spouses and children in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico are eligible to apply. Click here to view the scholarship eligibility requirements and apply now.

**How will I know that my application has been received?**

An email acknowledging receipt of the application is sent within 24 hours. The acknowledgement is sent to the email address provided when registering. If an acknowledgement is not received within 24 hours, please contact Scholarship Management Services by email at burgerkingscholars@scholarshipamerica.org or call 507-931-1682.

**What are the details of the award?**

BURGER KINGSM Scholars awards are granted each year.

The number of awards will be determined by the funds available and the number of applicants.

Most scholarships are non-renewable awards of up to $1,000. Awards cannot exceed educational costs.

The scholarships can be applied to tuition, fees or books required for course load at accredited, not-for-profit two or four-year colleges/universities in the United States, Canada or Puerto Rico (Note: BURGER KING® employees may use awards to take enrichment courses at accredited institutions).

A student may transfer from one institution to another and retain the award provided the institution and his or her enrollment continue to fulfill eligibility criteria.

**Can I apply every year for a scholarship?**

Awards are not renewable; however, $1,000 Employee-Based Track (as defined in the eligibility criteria) recipients may reapply to the program each year during which they meet the eligibility criteria. These recipients are eligible to receive up to a maximum of four annual awards (up to $4,000).

**Is a home-school student eligible to apply for the scholarship program?**

Yes, as long as the student meets the criteria of the program. Click here to view the scholarship eligibility requirements and apply now.

**How are funds distributed?**

The check will be made payable to the institution only.

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**AXA Achiever Scholarship**

<https://us.axa.com/axa-foundation/AXA-achievement-scholarship.html>

Deadline: Currently closed, last deadline was December 15, 2015, but only the first 10,000 applications are accepted.

[Register](https://axa.scholarshipamerica.org/reminder/) to receive information about the 2016 program, which will be available in Fall 2016.

Our scholarship winners are known as AXA Achievers. They are ethnically and economically diverse, but they share these qualities:

* Ambition and drive
* Determination to set and reach goals
* Respect for self, family and community
* Ability to succeed in college

## **How to apply**

Using a tiered process students apply on a state level and the top students from that group are recognized on a national level with an additional award.

### **Who is eligible?**

Applicants to the AXA Achievement Scholarship in association with U S News & World Report must:

* Be United States citizens or legal residents living or claiming residency in one of the 50 United States, District of Columbia or Puerto Rico
* Be current high school seniors who plan to enroll full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college or university in the United States for the entire 2015-2016 academic year.
* Demonstrate ambition and self-drive as evidenced by outstanding achievement in school, community or work-related activities
  + Special consideration will be given to achievements that empower society to mitigate risk through education and/or action in areas such as financial, environmental, health and/or emergency-preparedness

Eligible students are encouraged to apply for both the Achievement and Community scholarships, but a student may receive only one of these AXA-sponsored scholarships.

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**We the Students Scholarship Essay Contest**

<http://billofrightsinstitute.org/engage/students-programs-events/scholarship/we-the-students-rules-and-regluations/>

<http://billofrightsinstitute.org/engage/students-programs-events/scholarship/>

Deadline: Currently closed, last deadline was February 7, 2016

The Bill of Rights Institute seeks to help high school students understand the freedom and opportunity that the Constitution offers.  Among other programs, the We the Students Scholarship competition allows us to engage and educate thousands of students like yourself, who are interested in liberty, the founding principles, and personal responsibility.

The Contest is open to all United States citizens or legal residents who are students who are no older than 19 and no younger than 14 as of the end of the Contest Period who (1) attend school in the United States, one of its territories or districts, or an American Armed Forces School Abroad, and (2) who are in grades 8 -12 attending public, private, religious, or charter schools, or (3) are enrolled in a GED or correspondence school program, or (4) are attending a home school program.

**Student Prizes:**

1st place: $5,000

2nd place: $3,000

3rd place: $1,500

Honorable mention (5 prizes): $300 each

**Teacher Prizes:**

1st place: $500 to teacher of 1st place student.

2nd place: $250 to teacher of 2nd place student.

3rd place: $150 to teacher of 3rd place student.

**Teacher Nomination Bonus:** Teachers with more than five nominations will be entered into a drawing to win a $500 gift card. Remember to remind your students to add your name & e-mail to their application!

If you have any questions, please check the [FAQs Page](http://billofrightsinstitute.org/programs-events/students-programs-events/we-the-students-faq/) or contact our Student Programs Manager, [Luke Ripp](mailto:lripp@billofrightsinstitute.org) at (703) 894-1776, ext. 21.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Optimist International Scholarship**

<http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships3.cfm>

Deadline: Currently closed. The last deadlines info:

The deadline for Clubs to submit their winning essay to the District Chair is February 28, 2016. The deadline for Districts to submit their winner’s information to Optimist International is April 15, 2016.

Interested students must contact their local Optimist Club and submit their applications to them. **Membership is NOT REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE.** They need to submit an essay on the pre-assigned topic. To find out a contact, please e-mail the Programs Department at programs@optimist.org

Who: Youth under the age of 18 as of October 1 located in the United States, Canada, or the Caribbean.

Essays must be submitted to the nearest club.

Optimist International sponsors three scholarship contests for students to earn money to pursue opportunities in higher education: the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH), the Essay Contest and the Oratorical Contest. The contests are conducted at the Club level, then Zone and Regional (if necessary) and at the District level. District-level scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundations and awarded by Optimist International.  
  
**Essay Contest**  
This contest requires students under the age of 19 who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent to compose a 700- to 800-word essay around a central idea. The contest is designed to develop writing and critical thinking skills. One scholarship of $2,500 per District is awarded by Optimist International each year. For more information, [**click here**](http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships1.cfm).  
  
**Oratorical Contest**  
The Oratorical Contest is open to students under the age of 19 who have not yet graduated from high school or its equivalent. Students are required to prepare a 4- to 5-minute speech on a pre-assigned topic. This contest is designed to assist youth in gaining public speaking experience and provide them with an opportunity to compete for a scholarship. For more information, [**click here**](http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships1.cfm).

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Stossel Essay Contest**

<http://stosselintheclassroom.org/essay_contest/>

Deadline:Currently closed. Last deadline was **February 18, 2016**

Stossel in the Classroom's essay contest is for students aged 12-18. In addition to 125 prizes for students totaling $15,500, every teacher whose student(s) earn an honorable-mention award or better will receive an autographed copy of one of John Stossel's bestselling books!

Teachers may submit an unlimited number of student essays (500-1000 words in length). Simply have your students view John Stossel's "Overregulation" segment from his Fox News hour, War on the Little Guy, and write an essay on the assigned essay topic.

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**Americanism Essay Contest**

<http://www.fra.org/fra/Web/Events_and_Programs/7_12th_Grade_Essay_Contest/Web/Content/Essay_Contest.aspx?hkey=707c4b42-2eb8-4992-9d57-31b8bd14c68a>

Deadline: Reopens July 2016

FRA sponsors an annual essay contest to promote the spirit of Americanism and patriotism among our country’s youth. **No military affiliation is required.** FRA's Americanism Essay Contest is open to all students, grades 7 through 12, including those who are home schooled. Students are invited to submit a 350-word essay through an FRA member or local FRA branch before the December 1st deadline. Local winners are forwarded for competition at the regional level and regional winners compete for national prizes.

The Grand National winner will receive $5,000, with additional prizes for the top three essays in each grade category ($2,500 for first place, $1,500 for second place, and $1,000 for third place). Each national winner will receive an attractive plaque citing his/her achievement, and every entrant judged at the national level receives a certificate of recognition. Additional prizes may be awarded to students winning at local and regional levels of competition.

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**Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**

<http://www.oppf.org/essay-contest.asp>

Deadline: currently closed. Last deadline was October 23, 2015

**Annual International High School Essay Contest**

**Awards:** Four College Scholarships

1st Scholarship: $5,000; 2nd Scholarship: $3,000; 3rd Scholarship: $2,000; 4th Scholarship: $1,000

**Eligibility: The Contest is open to all college-bound, high school seniors. Membership in Omega Psi Phi not required.**

The essay must be entitled:

“What can be done to assure that American citizens do not lose their voting rights and that they regain any rights that have been lost in recent legislative changes?"

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**The First Step Scholarship**

<https://www.schwanerlaw.com/first-step-scholarship/>

Deadline: Currently closed. Last deadline was Feb 1, 2016

A $1,000 scholarship is available to students who are willing to admit their buzzed driving habit.

Why? I’ve represented dozens of young people who’ve made the terrible choice of driving under the influence.

These are rarely bad people. They are just people who were never honest with themselves regarding their buzzed driving habit. Time and again I hear the same thing:

“I only had a few drinks.”

Every time I can’t help but think that if more young people were forced to face their buzzed driving habit and admit to themselves that it was a real problem, that they could have put an end to it, and avoided the devastating consequences of driving under the influence.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

* Recipient is attending a higher education institution in the fall of 2016
* Recipient is a U.S. citizen accepted to or currently attending a college, university, or trade school within United States.

Applicants must submit:

* A completed Scholarship Application Form (download application here)
* Typed essay
* An acceptance letter from a college, university, or trade school

Award:

The award recipient will be notified of the selection on or about August 1, 2016

The Scholarship is to be used exclusively for school tuition and related expenses. A check for $1,000 will be made payable to the award recipient’s college, university, or trade school to cover these expenses and he or she is expected to submit receipts in accordance with IRS regulations

Application materials should be emailed to schwanerc@msn.com or mailed to:

Christian A. Schwaner, P.C.

405 S Cascade Ave # 204

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Phone: 719-577-9700

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**Joe Foss Institute**

<http://joefossinstitute.org/jfi-scholarship-program/>

Deadline: Currently closed, last deadline was March 13, 2016 MST

This contest is open to U.S citizens of all national backgrounds that are currently studying in the United States or in an American military school out of the country. Eligible contestants must be senior high school (11th—12th) students in a public, private, alternative, parochial school, or a home study program. Previous JFI scholarship recipients are not eligible. Recent high-school graduates are eligible to participate as long as the “deadline” of the current contest falls within 12 months after graduation. The three winners will receive $5,000, $2,500, and $1,000 scholarships to the accredited U.S. college or university of their choices. The winners will be notified and their names posted on our website by late April, 2016.

Write an essay and focus on the theme “IF NOT FOR THEM . . . . WHERE WOULD WE BE?” Develop this topic in any way you choose. You decide what it means to you. Be creative. Critical criteria will be Creativity, Theme Development, Clarity of Ideas, and Mechanics (Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation, Sentence Structure, etc.) It is not only acceptable, but also advisable to have several adults proof your work before submitting. Please review carefully the Essay Rules in section 3.

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**Altria College Opportunity Fund**

<https://www.scholarsapply.org/acof/index.php>

Deadline: Currently Closed. Re-opens December 2016. Last deadline was Feb 1, 2016

The Altria College Opportunity Fund is a competitive scholarship program designed to help qualified Richmond Public School graduates afford college degrees and prepare for the 21st-century workforce.

To be eligible, a student must:

• Be currently attending and be a candidate to graduate from one of the high schools in the Richmond public schools system in Richmond, Virginia.

• Have attended Richmond Public Schools for at least their junior and senior years.

• Plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school in the United States or Puerto Rico for the entire academic year.

• Applicants must demonstrate financial need.

• Have a cumulative high school GPA of 2.8 or higher based on a 4.0 scale (or the equivalent).

• Be a legal resident in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Students will receive additional consideration if they:

• Have participated in academic enrichment and/or positive youth development programs in their communities, especially through Altria’s partner organizations (see list on page 6); and/or • Demonstrate promise in one or more fields related to STEM, and have expressed interest in a career in a STEM field, Business or Education.

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**DNA Essay Contest**

<http://www.ashg.org/education/dnaday.shtml>

Deadline: Currently closed. Last deadline was 5:00 pm EST on March 11, 2016

The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) invites you to participate in the 10th Annual DNA Day Essay Contest! The contest is open to students in grades 9-12.

The contest aims to challenge students to examine, question, and reflect on important concepts in genetics. Essays are expected to contain substantive, well-reasoned arguments indicative of a depth of understanding of the concepts related to the essay question. Essays are read and evaluated by several independent judges through three rounds of scoring.

**Prizes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1st Place Winner:** | $1,000 + $1,000 genetics materials grant for teacher |
| **2nd Place Winner:** | $600 + $600 genetics materials grant for teacher |
| **3rd Place Winner:** | $400 + $400 genetics materials grant for teacher |
| **Honorable Mention:** | 10 prizes of $100 each |

1. Essays will be accepted from high school students (grades 9-12) in the US and internationally. **A teacher or administrator must submit the essay** and authenticate that the submission is the original work of the student. Parents may submit the essays of home-schooled students only. Only one entry may be submitted for each student.

1. All essays must be **written in English** and are **limited to 750 words**, including in-text citations. Essay titles are optional and will be counted towards the word limit. Reference lists do not count toward the 750 word limit.
2. Each teacher may only submit **six student essays per class, for up to three classes**.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Holocaust Essay Contest**

<http://ihene.org/holocaust-essay-contest-for-hs/>

Deadline: Currently closed. Last deadline was February 24, 2016

Threatened by their Nazi occupiers, in 1943 the Danish people organized a national effort to send 7,200 Jews by fishing boats to neutral Sweden. This effort by the citizens of Denmark resulted in the highest Jewish survival rate of any European country during World War II. The Danish citizens provide a unique example of courage and concern; jeopardizing their own lives to spare those of their fellow countrymen.

Our objective is for students to appreciate their own personal connection to the Holocaust, communities and even conflicts a world away. Each student can work to make a positive change in the world.

Students are asked to write a 750 -1000 word essay about an individual or group that shows moral courage. Students are asked to identify and explain the act of moral courage, connect it to the Holocaust (if a non-Holocaust example is used), and show a personal connection to the chosen example.

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**Free Speech Essay contest**

<http://www.thefire.org/student-network/essay-contest/>

Deadline: currently closed, last deadline was Jan 1, 2015

Award: $10,000

### Who Can Enter

High school juniors and seniors for the school year who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents are eligible to participate.

### http://d28htnjz2elwuj.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/paper.gifWord Length

Students must submit an essay between 800 and 1,000 words on the provided topic below.

### Deadlinehttp://d28htnjz2elwuj.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/clock.gif

FIRE must receive all entries by January 1, 2015. Winners will be announced January 31, 2015.

### Prizeshttp://d28htnjz2elwuj.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/trophy.gif

One $10,000 first prize, one $5,000 second prize, and three $1,000 runner-up prizes will be awarded for the best essays.

### Prizeshttp://d28htnjz2elwuj.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/box.gif

Four $500 winners will be chosen from the remaining

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**National Center for Policy Analysis and Debate Central Essay Contest**

<http://debate-central.ncpa.org/young_patriots_essay_contest_scholarship_1516/>

Deadline: Re-opens Summer 2016

The National Center for Policy Analysis and Debate Central will be hosting the Young Patriots Essay Contest! Entrants have the opportunity to compete for $10,000 in scholarship money.

The Young Patriots Essay Contest is designed to challenge high school students to creatively solve problems in the realm of economics and public policy through the art of writing. We assign a controversial topic each year and only THREE winners are chosen out of hundreds of essay submissions.

Your submission will be graded in part according to how carefully and thoughtfully you engage with challenging articles.

You may also incorporate outside research into your writing. Although this is not required, it may improve the overall quality of your essay.

Your essay should be written in English and should not exceed 1,200 words.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Define our Age Scholarship**

<http://essay.fountainmagazine.com/index/faq>

Deadline: Currently closed, last deadline Nov 30, 2015

Essays are expected to be factual, but with an inspirational style that will feed both our reason and soul.

• Contest open to all writers worldwide

• Essay word count must be between 1,500 and 2,500 words

1st Place - $1,500

2nd Place - $750

3rd Place - $300

Two Honorable Mentions - $200 each

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Sojourners National Essay Contest Cover Sheet**  
<http://www.nationalsojourners.org/americanism-programs.php?sid=18>

Deadline: Currently closed.

National Sojourners, Inc. conducts an annual National essay contest for high school students. All Sojourner Chapters are encouraged to provide the opportunity for participation to all High School students in their area. This is accomplished through coordinated efforts with school guidance counselors, military instructors of JROTC units and teachers. Each Chapter, in turn, has a committee which organizes the operation of the contest and locally judges the submitted essays before sending their winners to National Headquarters for competitive evaluation. All essays must be received by National Headquarters not later than 15 January of the upcoming New Year.

The essay contest is open to students currently in the 9th through 12th grades (including home schooled students). Essays should be 300 to 500 words in length (includes word count and cite quotations). Submit essays to the local National Sojourners chapters.

The question for the essay changes with each year’s contest. The Question is developed by the Americanism Committee and is always relevant to Americanism and Patriotism.

* 1st Place $2000 Savings Bond and National Sojourners Plaque
* 2ndPlace $1000 Savings Bond and National Sojourners Plaque
* 3rd Place $500 Savings Bond and National Sojourners Plaque

This year’s topic: Which Historical American Document in NARA's National Archives is most important to you, and why?

**Rules & Essay Details:**

* Essay contest is open to students currently inthe9th to 12th grades, including home schooled students
* Submit essay to your local National Sojourners Chapter using this "Authorized Cover Sheet," filled out clearly and completely
* Each Chapter submits a maximum of 3 essays to National Sojourners Headquarters, received at National by Jan. 15th, 2016
* Mandatory - Essay must satisfy the following requirements to be winners - Mandatory
* Must be typed, 300 - 500 words long, & include word count; Must cite & footnote facts/quotations & include bibliography
* Must include student's name on first page of actual essay and on bibliography
* Must be turned into and forwarded by your National Sojourners Chapter to be selected as winners

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