

Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association's Scholarship Essay Contest

SCHOLARSHIP PRIZES

THREE \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO THE TOP THREE ESSAYS

Three \$2,000.00 scholarships will be awarded to the top 3 essay writers. They will be notified via their school's essay contest contact.

JUDGING

The scholarships will be awarded at the discretion of the Scholarship Essay Committee.

The judging will be based on thoughtfulness, organization, interest, spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Judges will look for writing that is clear, articulate, and logically organized.

The essays will be scored on the following criteria: mechanics (formatting paper according to rules); error control (spelling, punctuation, grammar); statement of position; supporting arguments; concluding argument; and overall coherence (logical flow of ideas).

The decisions of the Scholarship Essay Committee are final.

RULES

- Only one submission per school district. Home-schooled students must submit their essay through the school district in which they reside. Students must reside within the boundaries of the Western District of Pennsylvania.
- Entrant must currently be in the twelfth grade.
- The submission must include a cover sheet identifying the author. This cover sheet must include the student's name and address (street, city and zip), as well as the name of the high school. With the exception of the cover sheet, the essay's pages must not contain any identifying information, such as name, high school, etc. No essay should contain information identifying the author's race, religion, gender, geographic location or other such personal information as may create a possible bias for or against the writer.
- Essay must be type-written, double spaced, **printed on only one side of the page**, and be no fewer than three pages and no more than five pages in length, excluding any Works Cited or Reference Lists. Works Cited or Reference Lists are optional and will be in addition to the three to five pages for the essay. Font size must be no smaller than 10.
- Essay must be solely the work of the entrant.
- Essays must be postmarked no later than March 21, 2025.

Winners will be notified via their school's contact during the week of April 7, 2025, and nonwinners by first class mail dated no later than April 11, 2025.

TO ENTER

Send the essay and the cover sheet via first-class mail or email by March 21, 2025 to:

WPTLA 2025 Scholarship Essay Contest
909 Mount Royal Boulevard, Suite 102, Pittsburgh, PA 15223