ESSAY CONTEST 2019

The Elie Wiesel Foundation Prize in Ethics Essay Contest, now in its 30th year, challenges college students to analyze the urgent ethical issues confronting them in today’s complex world. Students are encouraged to write thought-provoking personal essays that raise questions, single out issues, and are rational arguments for ethical action.

ELIGIBILITY
Registered undergraduate, full-time Juniors and Seniors at accredited four-year colleges or universities in the United States during the fall 2018 semester.

SUBMISSION
Students must apply and submit essays online, and receive online verification from their Faculty Sponsor. Any professor may act as a Faculty Sponsor and endorse the quality and authenticity of the student’s essay. Also, students must upload a letter from the Registrar or National Student Clearinghouse verifying enrollment.

2019 ESSAY TOPIC
Articulate with clarity an ethical issue that you have encountered and analyze what it has taught you about ethics and yourself. Note that the most engaging essays often reflect deeply on a particularly meaningful experience or episode in one’s life. That approach could focus ethical reflection on:

- A personal issue, family matter, travel incident, academic inquiry, dilemma in literature or film, recent article or editorial in a major newspaper, current conflict in American life, or international crisis
- Write about any specific topic you wish, provided it explores an ethical problem, question, issue, or concern

ESSAYS WILL BE JUDGED ON:

- The quality of the writing
- The clarity of the ethical problem or issue
- The depth of the essay’s ethical analysis – including, for example, reflections on matters of right and wrong, justice and injustice, and the implications of those reflections for society

CONTACT US:
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The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity
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New York, NY 10022
Telephone: 212.490.7788

DEADLINE ONLINE BY:
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018 AT 5PM PST

ONLINE ENTRY & GUIDELINES: WWW.ETHICSPRIZE.ORG
OPEN TO FULL-TIME JUNIORS & SENIORS

FIRST PRIZE $5,000
SECOND PRIZE $2,500
THIRD PRIZE $1,500
TWO HONORABLE MENTIONS $500 EACH

WINNING STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR AN INTERNSHIP, AND A CHANCE FOR THEIR ESSAY TO BE PUBLISHED IN A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PUBLICATION.

For winning essay examples, read An Ethical Compass, published by Yale University Press.
“Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Whenever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religion or political views, that place must — at that moment — become the center of the universe.”

– ELIE WIESEL
Acceptance Speech, Nobel Prize for Peace
Oslo, Norway
December 10, 1986

After receiving the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1986, Elie Wiesel and his wife, Marion, established The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. Rooted in the memory of the Holocaust, the Foundation’s mission is to combat indifference, intolerance and injustice through international dialogue and youth-focused programs that promote acceptance, understanding and equality.