



# The Elie Wiesel Foundation PRIZE IN ETHICS 2025 Essay Contest

## *Full Information & Guidelines*

### **Awards:**

- ◇ First Prize - \$10,000
- ◇ Second Prize - \$5,000
- ◇ Third Prize - \$3,000
- ◇ Two Honorable Mentions - \$1,000

All winners also receive a trip to NYC for a seminar and awards celebration. Students are required to attend all programming to receive the Prize.

### **Eligibility:**

- ◇ Registered undergraduate full-time students at accredited four-year colleges or universities in the United States during the Fall 2024 Semester.

### **Essay Topic:**

*What challenges awaken your conscience?*

*Is it the conflicts in American society? An international crisis? Maybe a difficult choice you face or a hard decision you had to make?*

*Engage us. Enlighten us. Explore the ethics of any problem, question, or issue, whether close to home or in the world at large. We are eager to learn from you.*

### **What the Readers Look For:**

- ◇ Clear articulation and genuine grappling with an ethical dilemma.
- ◇ Adherence to guidelines and carefully proofread essays.
- ◇ Observation of rules for Standard English usage (grammar, punctuation, mechanics) in writing.
- ◇ Thoroughly thought-out, tightly focused essays.
- ◇ Originality and imagination.
- ◇ Eloquence of writing style.
- ◇ Intensity and unity in the essay.

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

### **Essay Format:**

- ◇ In 3,000 to 4,000 words (6-8 pages), you are encouraged to raise questions, single out issues and identify dilemmas.

- ◊ Essays may be written in the formal or informal voice, but most importantly, an individual voice should be evident.
- ◊ The essay should be developed from your point of view and may take the form of an analysis that is biographical, historical, literary, philosophical, psychological, sociological or theological.
- ◊ Essay must be the original, unpublished work of one student however can be a paper that was turned in for class. Use of writing that is generated or aided by Artificial Intelligence is strictly prohibited.
- ◊ Only one essay per student per year may be submitted.
- ◊ Essay must be written in English.
- ◊ Essay should be titled, typed in 12-point font easily readable font (such as Times New Roman), double-spaced with 1" margins and numbered pages.
- ◊ Submissions will be judged anonymously. Hence, no name or identifying references (i.e. your name, school, or professor) should appear on the title page or in the document.
- ◊ **The EWF will not tolerate in an essay submission any expression of hatred to any racial, ethnic, gender, or faith-based group; it will result in immediate disqualification of the essay from the contest.**

#### **Faculty Sponsor:**

- ◊ *Faculty Sponsorship is optional although encouraged.*
- ◊ Any interested professor at the student's school may act as a Faculty Sponsor.
- ◊ Students entering the contest are required to have a Faculty Sponsor review and electronically verify their essay.
- ◊ Your Faculty Sponsor will need to verify online that your essay meets the content standards for your essay to be judged.
- ◊ All essays must be verified by the deadline on December 30, 2024 at 5pm PST in order to be judged.
- ◊ Upon submitting your entry online, your reported Faculty Sponsor will be emailed with a link to review and verify your submission online.
- ◊ If your Faculty Sponsor declines your submission or does not verify your essay by the deadline, it is disqualified.
- ◊ Please work with your Faculty Sponsor on any necessary edits to your essay before you upload and submit online.
- ◊ Your Faculty Sponsor will be reminded by email in the event your submission is not reviewed near to the deadline, but please check on the status of your submission independently, and work with your sponsor to ensure timely verification.
- ◊ Faculty members should only endorse thought-provoking, well-written essays that fall within the contest guidelines.

#### **Enrollment Verification:**

- ◊ The Foundation requires an official letter from your Registrar on your institution's letterhead, or from the National Student Clearinghouse verifying your enrollment as a full-time undergraduate student in the Fall of 2024. Please obtain this and upload as a PDF as part of your online submission.

#### **Studying Abroad:**

- ◊ Students who are studying abroad in the Fall 2024 semester, but are considered enrolled full-time in an accredited college or university in the United States are eligible to apply. Please check with your Registrar and obtain the appropriate documentation to verify your enrollment.

#### **Submission of Materials:**

- ◇ Entries must be submitted online through a submission system.
- ◇ Essays will be uploaded as a PDF (.pdf).
- ◇ Enrollment verification must be uploaded as a PDF file. [Your Faculty Sponsor's name and contact information, including email, must be provided if you are choosing to have one.
- ◇ You may edit your unfinished submission at any time but once submitted, you will not be able to edit your entry.
- ◇ Please note that due to the volume of entries, no materials will be critiqued or returned.

**CONTEST DEADLINE: December 30, 2024 BY 5PM PST**

PLEASE ENTER ONLINE AT [WWW.ETHICSPRIZE.ORG](http://WWW.ETHICSPRIZE.ORG)

*The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity reserves the right to publish the winning essays, in whole or in part. These essays may not be published elsewhere without written permission from the Foundation. Please note that due to the volume of entries, no materials will be critiqued or returned.*

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*The organization reserves the right to modify, amend, or discontinue any policies, procedures, or guidelines at its sole discretion and without prior notice. Changes may be implemented based on evolving operational needs, legal requirements, or organizational priorities. The organization also reserves the right to rescind any awarded Prize at any time.*

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