



2nd Annual
"Freedom in Academia"
Student Essay Contest

Call For Entries

Entry Deadline: November 6, 2009

\$5,000 Scholarship

www.thefire.org/contests

The mission of FIRE is to defend and sustain individual rights at America's colleges and universities. These rights include freedom of speech, legal equality, due process, religious liberty, and sanctity of conscience—the essential qualities of individual liberty and dignity. FIRE's core mission is to protect the unprotected and to educate the public and communities of concerned Americans about the threats to these rights on our campuses and about the means to preserve them.

About the Contest

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) is pleased to announce its second annual "Freedom in Academia" student essay contest. High school seniors from across the U.S. are invited to write an in-depth essay explaining why free speech and First Amendment rights are crucial to higher education and how abuses of these rights harm the college experience.

FIRE is looking for high school seniors to submit well-written essays on freedom of speech on college campuses. Essays should explain how college administrators betray liberty and violate students' constitutional rights at American colleges and universities as documented by FIRE in two short documentaries:

- ✓ *FIRE in Action: Valdosta State University*
- ✓ *Think What We Think...Or Else: Thought Control on the American Campus*

Essays should be 700–1,200 words.

Awards

First Place: One student will receive a **\$5,000** college scholarship. The winner will be featured on the FIRE and CFN websites and will receive an all-expense-paid invitation to the 2010 Campus Freedom Network Conference in Philadelphia, where he or she will meet with prominent free speech advocates, FIRE staff members, and student free speech activists.

Second Place: Two students will each receive a **\$2,500** college scholarship.

Runners-Up: Five students will each receive a **\$1,000** college scholarship.

Winners will also receive exposure on the FIRE website.

How to Enter

To enter online, read the instructions and fill out the form posted here: www.thefire.org/contests

To enter via U.S. mail, send your essay and contact information to:

Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
Attn: Essay Scholarship Contest
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

The following must accompany each entry:

- ✓ Student's name, address, e-mail address, school, school address
- ✓ Student's essay

Deadlines

The final day to submit an entry is **November 6, 2009**.

Winners will be announced by **December 11, 2009**.