

WILLIAM SIMPSON ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.
262 MAIN STREET
PARK FOREST, IL 60466
Telephone: (708) 747-6542

WSESF.ORG

ESSAY APPLICATION DEADLINE: SATURDAY APRIL 29, 2023

1. NAME: _____
2. ADDRESS: _____
3. CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
4. TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____
5. AGE: _____ GRADE: _____
6. HIGH SCHOOL: _____
7. DATE OF GRADUATION: _____
8. COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY ATTENDING: _____
9. DATE OF ADMISSION TO COLLEGE: _____
10. MAJOR OR FIELD OF CONCENTRATION: _____
11. LIST OTHER GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS OR AWARDS: _____
12. ESSAY TOPIC: _____

CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the information which I have provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false or misleading statement may constitute grounds for the automatic rejection of my application or withdrawal of any offer of a scholarship award. Essays submitted without an accompanying application will not be considered.

Applicant Signature

Date

Your original application must be completed and submitted to the William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation and postmarked on or before Saturday, April 29, 2023. You may submit your application and accompanying essay electronically via email to wsesf@comcast.net. Please contact Victor Blackwell at (708) 359-0221 or Brenda Yarborough at (708) 720-0893 for additional information or e-mail us at wsesf@comcast.net.

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SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND CRITERIA

1. Contestants must be an African American Junior or Senior in High School attending one of the fourteen designated far South Suburban High Schools, namely: Bloom, Bloom Trail, Bremen Township, Crete Monee, Eisenhower, Hillcrest, Homewood-Flossmoor, Marian Catholic, Rich Township Central and South Campuses, Southland College Prep., Thornton, Thornridge, and Thornwood. **An Essay Application must be completed and signed by student.**
2. Essays are required to be original works, and must have been written within 6 months of the due date.
3. Contestants must submit four copies of their essay with a signature on the last page, and submitted on or before the deadline of **Saturday, April 29, 2023.**
4. The top of each page must include the **contestant's name, title of the essay, date written and page number.** A cover page should precede the first page of text and all pages thereafter must be numbered.
5. The essay must consist of a **minimum of (8) eight pages,** and a **maximum of (12) twelve pages, double spaced** using Times Roman or Courier 12 or 14 font. A Bibliography is required and does not count toward the minimum page requirement.
6. Contestants must be prepared to answer questions if asked by one or more judges.
7. Essays and an application must be mailed and post marked on or before **Saturday, April 29, 2023.** Please mail to:

WSESF
Essay Competition
262 Main Street
Park Forest, IL 60466

Essays are judged by the following criteria:

1. Creativity and literary expression of subject matter
2. Grammar usage, spelling, and overall organization
3. Degree of complexity of topic and contestant's knowledge of subject matter
4. Credibility of cited resources and research materials
5. Quantity of supporting documentation using Footnotes & Bibliography

An essay is an analytic or interpretative literary composition usually dealing with its subject from a limited or personal point of view.

An original essay is the written expression of its author's opinion. At best, an essay blends facts with imagination, knowledge, and emotions, never giving itself wholly to one or the other. The essay's purpose is always the same: **to express an opinion about a specific subject.** Therefore, the writer should feel strongly about the topic; one that he or she has experienced, witnessed, or has a serious opinion or interest in the subject.

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2023 SUGGESTED ESSAY TOPICS

1. What is the legacy of President Barack Obama's administration?
2. What were the differences and similarities between Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Marcus Garvey?
3. Write about the importance of Kamala Harris as the first female and African American Vice President of the United States.
4. What individual African-American author and book most influenced your personal life?
5. What impact has Covid-19 had on the black community?
6. What are the best college majors and minors for black college students, and why?
7. Which black elected official in America had the most impact on advancing civil rights?
8. What is your opinion on Critical Race Theory and its relation to American History?
9. What is the story of Black Wall Street and the consequences of its destruction?
10. What is the importance of Reparations and what impact would it have on the African-American community?
11. Why is it importance for African Americans to vote during both the mid-term and Presidential election cycles?

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2023 List of Participating Schools in South Suburbs

Bloom High School
Bloom Trail High School
Bremen High School
Crete High School
Eisenhower High School
Hillcrest High School
Homewood-Flossmoor High School
Marian Catholic High School
Rich Township High School-(Stem)-Central Campus
Rich Township High School-South-Fine Arts Campus
Southland College Prep Charter High School
Thornridge High School
Thornton High School
Thornwood High School