

WILLIAM SIMPSON ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.

262 Main Street
Park Forest, IL 60466
Telephone: (708) 747-6542



February 29, 2024

Dear Dean of Students,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation, I am pleased to announce our 2024 Writers Workshop Program. The William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation, established in 1998, is a local Not for Profit, Charitable Organization committed to encouraging *African American south suburban* high school students to expand their writing skills.

The William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation would like those qualified students at your school interested in developing their writing techniques to attend the 2024 Writers Workshop. Please assist us with distributing the enclosed information at your school. The Essay Package contains the: (1) this President's letter for 2024; (2) Essay Announcement Flyer for posting; (3) William Simpson Biography; (4) Essay Application, (5) Essay Criteria, (6) Suggested Essay Topics, (7) list of eligible schools, (8) the Writer's Workshop application, and (9) the 2024 Schedule of Events.

This year, the 2023 Writers Workshop will be held on *SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024, 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M at the Park Forest Village Hall, 350 Victory Drive*. Please check our website for any updates.

Scholarships awards in the amount of \$1,000.00, \$500.00 and \$300.00 are given by the Foundation to students who write outstanding essays. If you have any questions regarding the workshop, please contact: Mrs. Brenda Yarborough, WSESF Workshop Coordinator, at 708-720-0893.

Thanking you in advance.

Willie Rush
President

Enclosure/ 2024 WSESF Essay package

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PH: 708-747-6542

www.wsesf.org

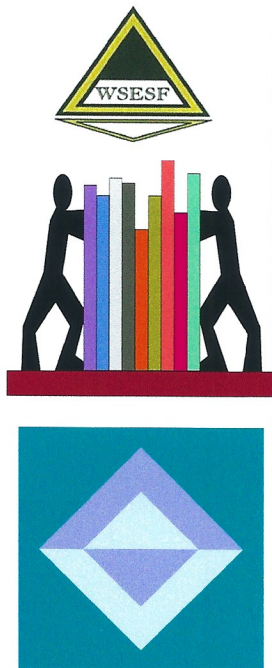
wsesf@comcast.net

26th ANNUAL ESSAY COMPETITION ELIGIBLE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS RECEIVE

First Place: \$1,000.00 Second Place: \$500.00

Third Place: \$300.00

DUE DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024— Postmarked Deadline or Email

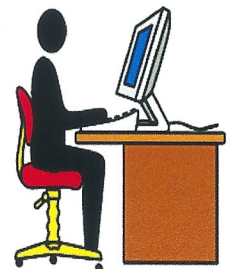


Committed to Educating our African-American Youth.

Scholarships will be conferred at Freedom Hall, 410 Lakewood Blvd., Park Forest, Illinois, 60466, on **Saturday, June 15, 2024** at 9:00 a.m. Donations and contributions are accepted and can be mailed to: 262 Main Street, Park Forest, IL 60466 or via our website at www.wsesf.org using major credit cards or Pay Pal.

The William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce its 26th Annual Essay Competition for the Spring of 2024. African-American south suburban juniors and seniors are invited to submit essays for competition in order to win a scholarship up to \$1,000.00. For more information on the Foundation, including the annual events schedule, scholarship criteria, and the 2024 application, please visit our website at www.wsesf.org.

The William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation was established in 1998 to encourage south suburban African-American college bound juniors and seniors to improve their writing skills.



Questions? Please contact:

Brenda Yarborough, 708-720-0893 or Victor Blackwell, 708-359-0221 or
Email us at wsesf@comcast.net



William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation
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WSESF.ORG

William Simpson Biography 1925-1996

William Simpson read everything! He cared about the social plight of humanity, and was pained by the blatant disparities he witnessed towards fellow Americans. Mr. Simpson spoke out through his literature, editorials and written commentaries. He was an avid writer and articulated many of the inequities of society, both locally and globally. He educated his community, and stood up for the downtrodden. His influential writings changed and affected the hearts and minds of many men and women who read his works. He wrote well-reasoned opinions and articles and expositions on equality and civil rights for all people. He also served as a judge for the annual NAACP ACT-SO Essay Competition.

He was a pioneer, and left a viable blueprint for thinkers and writers who dared to question injustice. From his extensive editorial and vigilant persona came the seeds of hope for equality and justice for all. His writing made those hopes eternal. Mr. Simpson was a long-term resident of Park Forest, Illinois and a pillar of the community. He was former president of the Chicago Far-South Suburban Branch of the N.A.A.C.P., and remained active throughout his tenure in the organization. He was married to Mrs. Juanita Simpson; they raised and educated their three children and they both were well known for their contributions to the community.

Following the death of William Simpson on October 8, 1996, the Chicago Far South Suburban Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. adopted a resolution calling for the creation of an Essay Scholarship Fund in memory of Mr. Simpson's legacy. His wife, Juanita Simpson, was the original founder of the organization. In 1998, the William Simpson Essay Scholarship Foundation was established and incorporated in Illinois as an independent, not for profit organization to motivate and encourage excellence in young African-American writers by offering competitive scholarships funds.

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WSESF.ORG

ESSAY APPLICATION DEADLINE: SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024

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 27, 2024. You may submit your application and accompanying essay electronically via email to wsefsf@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 wsefsf@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 27, 2024.**
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, at least a **minimum of (6) eight pages,** and a **maximum of (10) ten pages,** **double spaced** using Times Roman or Courier 12 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 27, 2024.** 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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2024 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. Describe the impact of Black Lives Matter on America.
8. Which black elected official in America had the most impact on advancing civil rights?
9. What is your opinion on Critical Race Theory and its relation to American History?
10. What is the story of Black Wall Street and the consequences of its destruction?
11. What is the legacy of Nelson Mandela?
12. What is the Importance of Reparation and what impact would it have on the African-American Community?
13. How did Stacey Abrams change the political landscape of the state of Georgia?
14. What is the Importance of voting in the 2025 mid-term election?
15. What is your opinion on the phenomenon called Cancel Culture?

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2024 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
Thorton Fractional High School

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**“Writers are
Winners”**

Writers Workshop Registration Form

Workshop will be held at the
Park Forest Village Hall
350 Victory Drive

Workshop date - March 23, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
(Learn how to win a \$1,000 scholarship)

1. NAME _____
2. EMAIL _____
3. ADDRESS _____
4. CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
5. TELEPHONE _____
6. AGE _____
7. HIGH SCHOOL _____

R.S.V.P. by March 9, 2024 via text message or email.

Please return application via email to wsef@comcast.net or call Mrs. Brenda Yarborough at (708) 720-0893 to R.S.V.P.

**WILLIAM SIMPSON ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP
FOUNDATION
2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

JAN. 13	REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JAN. 20	GSU FUNDRAISER: SONS OF SEREDIP
JAN. 21	WINTER WEBSITE UPDATED
FEB. 29	ESSAY APPLICATIONS DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS
MAR. 11	REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAR. 23	WRITERS WORKSHOP
APR. 21	STAY AT HOME “TEA ON ME” FUNDRAISER
APR. 27	2024 ESSAYS DUE
MAY 11	REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JUNE 15	SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BREAKFAST: FREEDOM HL
JULY 13	REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AUG. 26	SUMMER FUNDRAISER (TBD)
SEPT. 14	REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPT. 20	RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS: A-FUSION
NOV. 16	ANNUAL BOARD MEETING: CULL HOUSE