ANNOUNCING THE 11TH ANNUAL LIBERAL ARTS ESSAY COMPETITION

Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin System Advisory Group on the Liberal Arts (SAGLA)

This Year's Topic:
The value of a liberal arts education is often debated. Some people will argue, “We need an education that focuses on training for jobs that are currently in demand.” Others will claim, “An education is more than that. It provides the foundation for a meaningful life and career.” With these positions in mind, write a letter to the editor of your hometown paper that stakes out and defends your position in this debate. Your letter may mention several arguments, but should focus on one that is derived from your college experiences, both in the classroom and beyond.

Strong student essays will invite reader engagement through description and reflection on personal experience, as well as demonstrate careful consideration of the prompt. To learn more about the goals of a liberal education you may wish to check the liberal education learning outcomes at http://www.aacu.org/leap/vision.cfm.

Winning essays from recent years can be reviewed here.

NOTE: All submissions are to be original essays, 1,000-1,250 words in length, typed, double-spaced. Each essay must include a title page with the following information: title of essay, student’s name, major, institution, college and home address, e-mail address, telephone number, and the following statement: “I hereby affirm that this is an original essay and my own work.”

It is recommended to upload Microsoft Word or a pdf document.

Eligibility:
This competition is open to all (regardless of school or college) UW-Madison undergraduate students in academic good standing (3.0 cum GPA).

Award:
Three awards for $2,000 each are available (one to a student from the UW Colleges and two to students from the UW comprehensive and doctoral institutions). Up to three semi-finalists will be selected by the UW-Madison Committee on Undergraduate Education. Scholarships of $500 will be awarded to UW-Madison semi-finalists.

Essay Workshop Featured at Writing Center:
A session will be offered by the Writing Center on the the Liberal Arts Essay competition. If you're entering the Liberal Arts Essay competition, you'll definitely want to reserve a spot. Please check the Writing Center web pages for scheduling details.

In this session, you'll learn about the requirements for this essay contest, examine successful samples from previous competitions, and get feedback on your own draft. UW-Madison students' deadline for essay submission is 1/25/2016.

Instructions/Submission/Selection:
The UW-Madison deadline for submission of essays is on January 25, 2016. Essays must be uploaded through Scholarships@UW-Madison. Final selection of winning essays will be determined by a group of judges from the UW System Advisory Group on the Liberal Arts (SAGLA). Recipients will be notified in Spring 2016. Please contact scholarships@saa.ls.wisc.edu, or call 262-2941 with questions.