

# ANNOUNCING THE 2020 ANNUAL UW-MADISON LIBERAL ARTS ESSAY COMPETITION

*Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison General Education Committee*

## **This Year's Topic:**

University of Wisconsin-Madison requirements encourage students to complete a program of study that is both broad and deep. Through the General Education and Breadth requirements, students learn to think in different ways and about a wide range of topics, while in their majors, students explore specific disciplines in depth. The General Education Committee sponsors this essay contest because its members are interested in how these two dimensions of a Liberal Arts education help prepare students for life after college.

*Essay Prompt: Imagine that the year is 2030. You are now ten years older. Looking back, how did your undergraduate experience at UW-Madison help prepare you for the challenges and opportunities you face right now? In your essay, please reference specific courses to illustrate how your breadth of study complemented your focus in a major (or majors) and how this broad education has helped prepare you for the life you are living in 2030.*

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

<https://www.aacu.org/leap/essential-learning-outcomes>.

Past winning essays from a related competition can be reviewed:

<http://ls.wisc.edu/news/liberal-arts-sharpens-focus-illuminates-path>

<https://www.aacu.org/publications-research/periodicals/university-wisconsin-system-liberal-arts-scholarship-competition>

<http://ls.wisc.edu/news/students-answer-why-the-liberal-arts>

<http://ls.wisc.edu/news/liberal-arts-as-a-tool-for-change>

<http://ls.wisc.edu/news/english-history-student-wins-uw-system-liberal-arts-essay-scholarship>

<http://ls.wisc.edu/news/uw-madison-undergrad-one-of-three-to-win-system-liberal-arts-essay-scholarship-competition>

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, 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.

## **Awards:**

2 finalists will be selected by the University General Education Committee. The 1st place essay prize is \$1,000 and the 2nd place prize is \$500. Winning essays are made available to the public on University websites.

## **Eligibility:**

This competition is open to all UW-Madison undergraduates (regardless of school or college) in good academic standing with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA.

**Instructions/Submission/Selection:**

The UW-Madison deadline for submission of essays is **Monday, March 9, 2020 by 11:59 p.m.**

Essays must be uploaded through [WiSH](#).

Final selection of winning essays will be determined by a subcommittee of the Undergraduate Education Committee. Recipients will be notified in April 2020.

**Essay Workshop Featured at Writing Center:**

A workshop session will be offered by [the Writing Center](#) on the Liberal Arts Essay Competition. If you are entering the Liberal Arts Essay competition, you'll definitely want to reserve a spot. The workshop date will be announced in early January.

Please contact [scholarships@saa.ls.wisc.edu](mailto:scholarships@saa.ls.wisc.edu), 262-2941 with questions.