

Wilford L. Smith Scholarship Beta Sigma Essay Contest 2017

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender*: _____

Race*: _____ Grade Level: _____

GPA: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Participating School: _____

List of college or universities you are planning to attend in the Fall of 2017

By signing below, I, _____, understand my essay becomes the property of Phi Beta

Sigma Fraternity, Inc. – Beta Sigma chapter. I also acknowledge that if I am the winner I can be recognized as the winner through our chapter website and any other form of public relations.

Signature

Date

If under 18, please read the following.

By signing below, I, _____, am allowing my child _____, to participate in

the essay contest being sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. – Beta Sigma chapter. I am also authorizing that my child's school information can be used for public relations purposes only.

Parent's Signature

Date

*Optional and will be used for statistical purposes ONLY. No contestant will be discriminated based on gender or race.

Wilford L. Smith Scholarship

Beta Sigma Essay Contest 2017

Essay Contest Rules

Section I - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contestant must be a graduating senior at a High School in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, or Suffolk.
2. Contestants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and must provide a transcript with essay.
3. Contestants must plan on attending a 2 or 4-year college or university in the fall. Proof of enrollment will be requested at a later date.

Section II – Essay Topics (Choose One)

Are you in favor or against the following statements?

1. Students should be held accountable for anything they post on social media.
2. SOL testing depicts an accurate description of the content a student has learned in the classroom.
3. Post-civil rights era, all students are afforded equal educational opportunities.

Section III - Contest Rules

1. Participants must write an argumentative essay on the official topic.
2. Each entry must begin with a title page containing: the official topic, writer's name, email address, and name of school.
3. Essays must be typewritten and double-spaced. (Deduction of 5 points)
5. Essays must be between 500 and 750 words. (Deduction of 5 points)
6. Essays must be in Times New Roman.
7. Essays must be in size 12 Font and double spaced, minus the title page.
8. Essays must have normal 1" margins.
9. Any quotations or copyrighted material used must be cited properly. For example, use of a specific writer's format (such as MLA) may be specified by the instructor overseeing the contest. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
10. If any references, essay must include a reference page.
11. Essay must be written in English.
12. The entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner.
13. The scanned, completed copy of page 1, the cover letter, and the essay must be submitted via email to scholarship@betasigma1914.com by 5pm EST on April 28th, 2017.

Section IV – Judging and Timing

1. Judging will be completed by a panel of judges.
2. In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be assigned a number by the Essay Contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and page 1 of the essay. The title page will then be detached and retained by the Essay Contest Chair. The judges will be given the essay bearing only the assigned number.
3. Judges will not discuss or compare essays being judged.
4. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.
5. Contestants will be notified of the results by May 6, 2017.

Section V – Scoring

Scoring procedures of the contest will be identical. Each recipient will be scored by each judge and the average of the scores will be computed. The highest score a contestant can receive is a 24.

1. Use of conventions – 4 points
2. Organization – 4 points
3. Ideas (originality) – 4 points
4. Sentence Fluency – 4 points
5. Word Choice – 4 points
6. Voice – 4 points

Section VI – Penalties

1. Failure to list official topic: 2 points
2. Failure to type essay and double-space: 5 points
3. Failure to stay within word count: 5 points

Section VII - Awards

The winner of the scholarship essay contest will be awarded \$1000.

- A. Award is for use at a college or university only.
- B. Scholarship will be payable to the contestant, pending proof of enrollment into a college or university.
- C. Winner must be able to appear in a photo collecting money from a member of the Beta Sigma chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.