

2023 Rules

1st Annual Patricia Trotter and Gwyn Morgan Student Essay Contest

1. The contest is open to students studying in Canada and to Canadian students studying abroad. Canadian students studying abroad may be asked to provide proof of citizenship. A student is defined as someone who attends school in the 2023/24 school year.
2. Submissions will be considered from undergraduate students only. There is no restriction on discipline of study.
3. An essay may only have one author.
4. Essays must be a minimum of 1,500 words and no more than 2,500 words. Essay for purposes of this contest is defined as a written composition that presents a coherent and structured argument or discussion on a particular topic. It is a literary piece written in third person that expresses the author's perspective, ideas, and insights about a subject matter. Essays should not be works of pure opinion but rather supported by facts and evidence and structured as a coherent argument.
5. Submissions will address a current political, cultural or economic topic of the author's choosing broadly consistent with the principles of free markets, democratic governance, individual liberty, reason, personal responsibility and freedom of conscience and expression. In the spirit of open inquiry and free expression the contest welcomes essays that challenge conventional orthodoxies.
6. The essay must be an original composition without the assistance of AI.
7. Entries must be a single document with page numbers that include a title page with the name of the author(s), mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address along name of post-secondary institution, major (if applicable) and year of study.
8. **Entries must be [submitted online](#) in .pdf or .doc format no later than midnight on October 24, 2023.**
9. Entries may only be submitted once. Further submissions with revisions will not be accepted.
10. Failure to follow these rules may lead to disqualification from the contest.
11. Entries will be judged – in no particular order – on ten criteria: 1) content and relevance; 2) thesis and argument; 3) organization and structure; 4) clarity and coherence; 5) writing style and language; 6) evidence and support; 7) creativity and originality; 8) engagement and impact; 9) adherence to guidelines; and 10) overall impression.

12. \$5,000 in prize money will be distributed to three winners as follows: first place \$2500; second place \$1,500; and third place \$1,000. The three winners will additionally be awarded the opportunity to work with a professional editor and have their essays published in *C2C Journal* along with channels supported by sponsoring organizations.
13. Winners will be posted on the Manning Foundation website no later than December 15, 2023.
14. The Patricia Trottier and Gwyn Morgan Student Essay Contest is administered by the Manning Foundation for Democratic Education. Inquiries and requests for further information may be directed by email only to troy@manningfoundaiton.org.