



## THE ELIE WIESEL FOUNDATION FOR HUMANITY

555 MADISON AVENUE • 20<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR • NEW YORK, NY 10022 • TEL 212.490.7788 • FAX 212.490.6006

**TO:** FACULTY SPONSOR

**FROM:** SAMANTHA CARLIN, ESSAY CONTEST COORDINATOR

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 2011

**RE:** THE ELIE WIESEL PRIZE IN ETHICS ESSAY CONTEST 2012

We are pleased to announce *The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest, 2012*. This annual competition challenges college students to submit essays on the urgent ethical issues that confront them in today's world. Since 1989, The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics has encouraged students to write thought-provoking personal essays that raise questions, single out issues and develop rational arguments for ethical action. We hope you will encourage full-time juniors and seniors at your institution to compete in this contest. Awards are granted up to \$5,000. The deadline for the contest is December 5, 2011 by 5pm PST. A distinguished panel of readers will evaluate all entries. A jury, headed by Elie Wiesel, will choose the winners.

Students entering the contest are required to partner with a Faculty Sponsor. There is no better encouragement for a student to enter our contest than motivation from a professor or a faculty member. Any interested professor may act as a Faculty Sponsor to verify the quality and the authenticity of the student's essay. Once registered by the student, the Faculty Sponsor will electronically verify the student's work.

Please inform your students of this meaningful opportunity and encourage them to enter. To ensure that your campus is represented by essays of the highest caliber, faculty members should only endorse thought-provoking, well-written essays that fall within the contest guidelines. For examples of previous essays, we recommend you direct students to our book [An Ethical Compass: Coming of Age in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#), a collection of outstanding prize-winning essays from the first two decades of the contest, published by Yale University Press.

This year, submissions will be accepted online. Students will create an account and electronically submit their application, complete with the essay, required entry information, and a portal for faculty and enrollment verification.

All winners will be announced in the spring of 2012.

Enclosed please find a poster announcing the 2012 essay contest. We have also included copies of the Contest Guidelines and the 2011 Winners Announcement. All of these materials may be reproduced. This information can also be found at [www.ethicsprize.org](http://www.ethicsprize.org).

Should you have any questions or would like additional contest materials, please feel free to contact me at +1(212) 490-7788. For more information about The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, please visit [www.eliewieselfoundation.org](http://www.eliewieselfoundation.org).

We look forward to receiving essays from your school.

# THE ELIE WIESEL PRIZE IN ETHICS

## ESSAY CONTEST 2012

### GUIDELINES

#### AWARDS:

- ✦ First Prize - \$ 5,000
- ✦ Second Prize - \$ 2,500
- ✦ Third Prize - \$ 1,500
- ✦ Two Honorable Mentions - \$ 500 Each

#### ELIGIBILITY:

- ✦ Registered undergraduate full-time Juniors or Seniors at accredited four-year colleges or universities in the United States during the Fall 2011 Semester.

#### SUGGESTED ESSAY TOPICS:

- ✦ Articulate with clarity an ethical issue that you have encountered and analyze what it has taught you about ethics and yourself.
- ✦ Please note: \*This topic is only a suggestion. Students may write about any topic they wish, as long as it explores the theme of ethics.

#### WHAT THE READERS LOOK FOR:

- ✦ Clear articulation and genuine grappling with an ethical dilemma.
- ✦ Adherence to guidelines and carefully proofread essays.
- ✦ Observation of rules for Standard English usage (grammar, punctuation, mechanics) in writing.
- ✦ Thoroughly thought-out, tightly focused essays.
- ✦ Originality and imagination.
- ✦ Eloquence of writing style.
- ✦ Intensity and unity in the essay.

#### ESSAY FORMAT:

- ✦ In 3,000 to 4,000 words, you are encouraged to raise questions, single out issues and identify dilemmas.
- ✦ Essays may be written in the formal or informal voice, but most importantly, an individual voice should be evident.
- ✦ The essay should be developed from your point of view and may take the form of an analysis that is biographical, historical, literary, philosophical, psychological, sociological or theological.
- ✦ Essay must be the original, unpublished work of one student. Only one essay per student per year may be submitted.
- ✦ All essays must have a title.
- ✦ All essays must be written in English.
- ✦ Essay should be titled, typed in 12-point font easily readable font (such as Times New Roman), double-spaced with 1" margins and numbered pages.
- ✦ Submissions will be judged anonymously. Hence, no name or identifying references (i.e. your name, school, or professor) should appear on the title page or in the document. Our office will put a code on your essay.

#### FACULTY SPONSOR:

- ✦ Any interested professor at the student's school may act as a Faculty Sponsor.
- ✦ Students entering the contest are required to have a Faculty Sponsor review and electronically verify their essay.
- ✦ Your Faculty Sponsor will need to verify online that your essay meets the content standards in order for your essay to be judged.
- ✦ All essays must be verified by the deadline on December 5, 2011 at 5pm PST in order to be judged.

- ✦ Upon submitting your entry online, your reported Faculty Sponsor will be emailed with a link to review and verify your submission online.
- ✦ If your Faculty Sponsor declines your submission or does not verify your essay by the deadline, it is disqualified.
- ✦ Please work with your Faculty Sponsor on any necessary edits to your essay before you upload and submit online.
- ✦ Your Faculty Sponsor will be reminded by email in the event your submission is not reviewed near to the deadline, but please check on the status of your submission independently, and work with your sponsor to ensure timely verification.
- ✦ Faculty members should only endorse thought-provoking, well-written essays that fall within the contest guidelines.

#### ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION:

- ✦ The Foundation requires an official letter from your Registrar on your institution's letterhead, or from the National Student Clearing House verifying your enrollment as a full-time undergraduate Junior or Senior in the Fall of 2011. Please obtain this and upload as a PDF as part of your online submission.

#### STUDYING ABROAD:

- ✦ Students who are studying abroad in the Fall 2011 semester, but are considered enrolled full-time in an accredited college or university in the United States are eligible to apply. Please check with your Registrar and obtain the appropriate documentation to verify your enrollment.

#### SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS:

- ✦ Entries must be submitted online through a submission system.
- ✦ Essays will be uploaded as a PDF (.pdf).
- ✦ Enrollment verification must be uploaded as a PDF file.
- ✦ Your Faculty Sponsor's name and contact information, including email, must be provided.
- ✦ You may edit your unfinished submission at any time but once submitted, you will not be able to edit your entry.
- ✦ You must submit to generate the email to your Faculty Sponsor.
- ✦ All essays must be verified by the Faculty Sponsor by the deadline on December 5, 2011 at 5pm PST in order to be judged.
- ✦ Please note that due to the volume of entries, no materials will be critiqued or returned.
- ✦ No paper or hard-copy submissions will be accepted.

**CONTEST DEADLINE: DECEMBER 5, 2011 BY 5PM PST**

**PLEASE ENTER ONLINE AT [WWW.ETHICSPRIZE.ORG](http://WWW.ETHICSPRIZE.ORG)**

*The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity reserves the right to publish the winning essays, in whole or in part.  
These essays may not be published elsewhere without written permission from the Foundation.  
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# 2011 WINNERS' ANNOUNCEMENT

AS RELEASED BY PRNEWSIRE, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2011

## WHAT CAN YOUNG PEOPLE TEACH US ABOUT ETHICAL LEADERSHIP?

The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity and LRN Announce the Winners of the 2011 Prize in Ethics Essay Contest

NEW YORK, May 18, 2011 /PRNewswire- The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity and its exclusive corporate sponsor, LRN, have announced that Jonathan Calloway, East Tennessee State University, Class of 2011, is the first place winner of the 2011 Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics essay contest.

The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics is an annual competition that challenges college students in the U.S to submit essays on the urgent ethical issues that confront us in today's complex world.

"Today's college students are listening to the ethical voices within. They are drawing on their memories and the lessons of their teachers, and are concerned with the morality of their private and public experiences. They are challenging us all to make a difference," said Elie Wiesel.

Calloway, a Psychology Major, won first place for his essay, "Rocks in the Sun: Sous le ciel d'Haiti," describing his experiences witnessing suffering and hope as a volunteer in Haiti. "The Elie Wiesel Foundation Prize in Ethics is the most prestigious award to receive. In Haiti, I received the award of humbleness and recognition that I must be the change I want to see in the world," Calloway said.

Thousands of young people have participated in the Foundation's Prize in Ethics since its inception in 1989. In November 2010, Yale University Press published "An Ethical Compass: Coming of Age in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," a collection of outstanding essays from the first two decades of the prize.

Additional winners of the 2011 contest include:

- **Second Prize:** Ethan Schwartz, University of Chicago, for his essay "The Children of Prophets: Intergenerational Transmission and the Ethics of Tradition," in which he explores the ethics of tradition in Judaism and Biblical scripture and how they relate to modern Jewish thought.
- **Third Prize:** Kanglei Wang, Yale University, for her entry, "The Ethics of Nationalism: A Sino-Tibetan Dialogue," examining the political, cultural and social gulf which exists between China and Tibet.
- **Honorable Mention:** Amy Schilit, University of Southern California, for her essay "Strangers in a Strange Land," in which she analyzes the plight of African asylum seekers and refugees in Israel.
- **Honorable Mention:** Rebekah Berger May, University of New Orleans, for her essay "Plank," examining race relations in New Orleans.

"These students view human endeavor through an ethical lens, creating a distinctly sustainable advantage in navigating our increasingly interconnected and ethically interdependent world," said Dov Seidman, CEO of LRN. "These are the types of leaders we desperately need; individuals who think about the ethical dimensions of their decisions and actions and who are inspired by sustainable values to propel their journeys of innovation, progress and significance."

For more information, visit <http://www.ethicsprize.org>

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