

The John Marshall – Dan O’Hanlon Constitution Day Essay Competition

The College of Liberal Arts is pleased to announce the creation of a new essay prize, the John Marshall – Dan O’Hanlon Constitution Day Essay.

The purpose of this essay competition is to encourage Marshall University students to study the historical and contemporary significance of the Constitution of the United States of America and the effect the Marshall court had in establishing the importance of the Supreme Court. The contest will complement other University activities that celebrate the formation of the Constitution. All currently enrolled undergraduate students enrolled at Marshall University are eligible to participate.

The grand prize winner will receive \$1,500. The runner-up will receive \$750. The winners of the Essay Competition will be announced on September 17.

Topic for 2009 Essay Competition

Free speech in the “marketplace of ideas” is a cherished but much debated right in this society. Nowhere is it deemed more valuable, constructive and necessary than on a university campus. Should colleges and universities be allowed to place restrictions on what is reasonable speech for faculty?"

Essays should be approximately 10 pages in length using double spacing, one inch margins and an easy to read 12 point font. Students are free to use a popular style guide (e.g., MLA, Chicago Manual of Style, American Psychological Association, or other guide) for the presentation of quotations and reference sources. All submissions must present a complete reference section and provide appropriate reference to the ideas and words of other writers.

Submit the essay as a Microsoft Word document file to David J. Pittenger, Dean The College of Liberal Arts, at pittengerd@marshall.edu no later than August 24, 2009.

Essays will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Scope of Essay:** The extent to which the essay addresses primary questions presented in the assignment.
- Completeness of Research:** The extent to which the author identifies and uses original source material to prepare the essay.
- Clarity of Expression:** The extent to which the author provides a logically consistent, accurate, and clearly expressed essay that has few or no errors in grammar, word usage, or methods of citation.
- Originality of Thought:** The extent to which the student presents his or her ideas in a clear and well-reasoned manner.