HUMANISTS of GREATER PORTLAND

Essay Contest Application for 2023 Scholarship
The first-place winner will be awarded up to $3,000; other amounts may also be awarded.

Basic Concept of Humanism

Humanism is a progressive philosophy that encourages using science, reason, and critical thinking to solve problems and to define goals without supernaturalism. It affirms the inherent dignity and worth of each human being and asserts that the ethical principles of truth, fairness, and compassion are essential for governing human actions if we are to improve our world.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant must be a graduating senior from a public high school in the greater Portland area, who has a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and who plans to attend college in the fall of 2023.

Name _____ _____ _____ _____
            First   Middle   Last   Birthdate

Address _____ _____ _____ _____
                Street   City   State   Zip Code

Phone _____ Email _____ High School_____

Application Requirements

We will judge essays on adherence to the chosen topic, authentic voice, logical support of thesis, clarity, and organization.
We expect you will keep in mind the above core values of Humanism in your approach to the topic, and incorporate your personal experiences into your essay in your own words.

1. **An original essay of 750 to 1,000 words, typed and double-spaced,** on **one** of the following topics:

a--- A favorite word that pundits are using for the sharply opposing factions in our country is "polarization." What has been your experience with drawing people together, and what else do you think might help to do that?

b--- Young people have recently organized and spoken out more than ever about such issues as gun control and climate change. What in your personal experience has moved you to speak out or take other action?

c--- Statisticians report that the United States is becoming less religious. Does that match what you've seen in your own environment? If so, what evidence for that do you see?

2. **High school transcript showing GPA of 3.0 or higher.**
3. **Completed application signed by the student, and also by a parent if the applicant is under age 18.**

Submit the above materials via email no later than midnight April 8, 2023

TO   scholarship@portlandhumanists.org

Dear applicant, please fill in your name and date, and check all the boxes below that apply:

I, _____   **_____ ____**
Print Name of Student   **Student's Signature**   **Date**

☐   agree to read this essay at a Sunday meeting of the Humanists of Greater Portland (HGP) if I am awarded a scholarship;
☐   give HGP permission to videorecord that essay presentation;
☐   give HGP permission to make that videorecording available to HGP members only, through the HGP website;
                                          OR
☐   give HGP permission to make that videorecording available to the general public, through the HGP website;
☐   give HGP permission to print the essay on the HGP website and/or in the HGP newsletter.

Dear parent, if the student is under 18, please fill in the names and date, and check the box below:

I,_____   give permission for   **_____**
Print Name of Parent or Guardian   **Print Name of Student**

☐   to enter this 2023 essay contest according to the above terms.

_____ _____
Signature of Parent or Guardian   **Date**

You can go to https://tinyurl.com/HGPwinners to view past essay presentations.