Spring 2017 Constitutional Symposium on Religious Liberty Essay Contest

Entry forms are found on pages 2 & 3. The rubric is found on pages 4 & 5.

Essay Topic

Write an essay on “Religious Liberty and Legal Exemptions,” paying special attention to the history, constitutional implications, and political significance of a contemporary issue related to special exemptions for religious organizations or individual practice.

Examples of possible topics include: religious exemption from state and/or federal laws, tax privileges of religious institutions, or Affordable Care Act exemptions.

Eligibility

The contest is open to all current students at Utah Valley University.

Prize

First Place - $250
Second Place - $150
Third Place - $100

Length

3,000 (minimum) to 5,000 (maximum) words. Not including Bibliography or Title page.

Submission & Due Date

The essay and completed student registration form must be compiled together and sent to: centerforconstitutionalstudies@gmail.com no later than Friday, February 3, 2017.

Requirements

1. Essays should be submitted in 12-point, double- spaced and single sided with 1 inch margins. To ensure fairness, your name (or any other identifying information) should not appear on any page of the essay.
2. Essays must have a title at the top of the first page (do not use a title page)
3. Sources must be used, cited, and credited in a format consistent with Chicago Turabian style of citation. See Crescat Scientia Style Guide.

Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged on the depth of their content, the mastery of the topic and skill with which they are written.

Essays failing to meet the requirements will not be judged.

See rubric for specific criteria on judging.

Finalists

1. Finalists will be announced by February 17, 2017 and will be assigned to a mentor to help them revise and rework their paper.
2. The finalists of the contest will be honored at a CCS sponsored conference and will present their papers at a special panel held during the 2017 Spring Constitutional Symposium.
3. Finalist essays will be published in the Crescat Scientia. A publication by the history and political science department at UVU.

Visit www.uvu.edu/ccs for more information or any questions, please contact the Center by email at centerforconstitutionalstudies@gmail.com.
Entry Form:
2017 Spring Religious Liberty Essay Contest

***This form must be fully completed and submitted for an entry to be considered***

**Deadline: February 3, 2017**

**Student Information**

Name: 

Major:

Home Address: 

Phone Number: 

City: 

State: 

Zip: 

E-mail: 

**Essay Information:**

Title of Essay: 

Exact word count of the essay text (must be between 3,000 - 5,000)
I agree to and understand the following:

1. I have read, understand, complied with and accept the terms of the contest objectives and guidelines for a Historical, Political and/or Legal Perspective on Religious Liberty for the Essay Contest (hereinafter the “Competition”).

2. I warrant and represent that I personally wrote the essay I submitted to the competition. I further warrant and represent that the essay I submitted has not been published before its submission to this competition, and that any reference material I have used has been properly cited and not plagiarized.

3. I am a student at Utah Valley University.

4. I hereby release, discharge and hold harmless the Center for Constitutional Studies and its successors, assigns, officers, employees and agents associated with the competition from and against any and all liability, loss, damage, expense, claims, settlements or judgments of any kind whatsoever, including attorneys’ fees, whether in contract or in tort, arising directly or indirectly as a result of my participation in the competition, and my acceptance and use of a prize awarded to me, if any.

5. I consent to the use of my name, biographical data, pictures, portraits, photographs, voice or likeness, and the essay entered by me in the competition in any form for editorial, advertising, promotional and trade purposes in connection with the promotion by the Center for Constitutional Studies of this competition and succeeding Religious Symposiums sponsored by the Center for Constitutional Studies.

Entrant's Name (please print): ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Entrant’s Signature: ___________________________
## Essay Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explanation of the issue</td>
<td>Clear, logical and well focused. Includes multiple detailed examples to support ideas and thesis.</td>
<td>Clear, logical and focused with some detailed examples to support ideas and thesis.</td>
<td>Somewhat lacking in clarity, logic or focus. Some related examples.</td>
<td>Little clarity, logical focus. Few details or examples.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Relevance</td>
<td>Clearly states and provides many examples or details on why the issue is relevant.</td>
<td>Clearly states and provides some examples or details on why the issue is relevant.</td>
<td>Somewhat states why issue is relevant. Provides few examples or details.</td>
<td>Does not mention relevance and provides little to no details or examples.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Relevance</td>
<td>Historical relevance clearly stated. Numerous examples.</td>
<td>Historical relevance stated, but with few examples.</td>
<td>Historical relevance mentioned, but little to no examples.</td>
<td>No mention of Historical relevance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal and/or political impact</td>
<td>Clear statement of legal and/or political impact. Relevant examples.</td>
<td>Legal and/or political somewhat included. Some examples.</td>
<td>Only passing mention of legal and/or political impact. Few or no examples.</td>
<td>No mention of legal and/or political impact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counter-Arguments</td>
<td>Considers both obvious obvious and unobvious counterexamples, counterarguments, and/or opposing positions, and provides original and/or thoughtful responses.</td>
<td>Considers obvious counterexamples, counterarguments, and/or opposing positions, and provides responses.</td>
<td>Considers obvious counterexamples, counterarguments, and/or opposing positions, and provides responses. Responses are non existent or mere claims of refutation.</td>
<td>No counter examples, counterarguments, or opposing positions are considered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding</td>
<td><strong>Excellent</strong></td>
<td><strong>Good</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fair</strong></td>
<td><strong>Poor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideas</td>
<td>The paper contains a highly accurate and precise description of the issue, along with a careful consideration of possible solutions. The paper contains relevant examples.</td>
<td>The description of the issue of fairly accurate and precise, and possible alternatives or solutions are considered. Semi relevant examples are used.</td>
<td>The description of the issue is fairly accurate but not precise, and solutions are either not considered, or ill-described.</td>
<td>The description of the issue is inaccurate, and possible alternatives or solutions are not considered, and examples are not provided.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Essay Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clarity</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/10</td>
<td>All sentences are complete and grammatically correct. All words are chosen for their precise meaning. Good, clear examples are used to illuminate concepts and issues. Information (names, facts, etc.) is accurate. Paper has been spell checked and proofread, has no errors, and no rhetorical questions or slang.</td>
<td>All sentences are complete and grammatical. Most words are chosen for their precise meanings. Examples are clear. Information (names, facts, etc.) is accurate. Paper has been spell checked and proofread, and has very few errors, and no rhetorical questions or slang.</td>
<td>A few sentences are incomplete and/or ungrammatical. Words are not chosen for their precise meanings. Examples are not clear. Information (names, facts, etc.) is mostly accurate. Paper has several spelling errors, rhetorical questions and/or uses of slang.</td>
<td>Many sentences are incomplete and/or ungrammatical. Information (names, facts, etc.) is inaccurate. Paper has many spelling errors, rhetorical questions and/or uses of slang.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fabrication</td>
<td>The introduction is inviting, states the main topic, and provides an overview of the paper. Information is relevant and presented in a logical order. The conclusion is strong.</td>
<td>The introduction states the main topic and provides an overview of the paper. A conclusion is included.</td>
<td>The introduction states the main topic. A conclusion is included.</td>
<td>There is no clear introduction, structure, or conclusion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/12</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citations</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/8</td>
<td>All evidence is properly cited in Chicago Turabian style.</td>
<td>All evidence is cited but there are some minor problems with completeness or format of some citations.</td>
<td>Pieces are unreferenced or inaccurately referenced, and there are problems with completeness and format of citations.</td>
<td>No attempt is made to cite evidence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| /8        |           |      |      |      |