



The Benjamin Franklin Scholar Award honors one of our Nation's Founding Fathers who continues to have a remarkable impact on our lives today.

Summary: This is a writing competition open to all Pennsylvania public school students in their junior year of high school. Students submit an original essay of not more than 750 words discussing the modern day relevance of a selected quote by Benjamin Franklin. Essays are reviewed by judges named by the Pennsylvania Association of School Counselors, the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals and the Pennsylvania School Board Association. Winners are honored in person at The Pennsylvania Society Annual Meeting.

2011-12 Essay Submission Deadline: Monday, October 17, 2011

Table of Contents	
General Information: Rules, Awards, Calendar	page 2
Guidelines: For Applicants	page 3
Guidelines: For High Schools	page 4
Scoring Rubric	page 5
Application Form	page 6
Transmittal Form	page 7
Instructions on Submitting Forms	page 8

General information

There is a new topic each year.

Rules:

1. All submissions must be original work.
2. Applicants must be in their junior year at a Pennsylvania public high school.
3. Applicants must be residents of Pennsylvania.
4. The essay should be thoughtful, demonstrate hard work and display sensitivity to the complexities of the subject's issues.
5. The essay must be no more than 750 words in length.
6. The essay must be appropriately documented with either footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography.
7. The first page of the essay must include the following information: title of paper; applicant's first and last name; high school's name, phone number, address and e-mail address.
8. The essay may or may not be an assigned part of a formal class or registered home school assignment.
9. The essay document must be e-mail to scholaraward@pasociety.com or faxed to 215-233-2652.
10. All questions regarding the competition should be directed to scholaraward@pasociety.com.
11. By participating in this writing competition, the student consents to the publishing of his or her submission online should it be chosen as a winning selection.
12. All decisions made by the judges are final.

Scholar Awards

First Place:	\$3,000
Second Place:	\$2,000
Third Place:	\$1,000

2011-12 Calendar

- **Essay Submission Deadline: Monday, October 17, 2011**
- Winner Notification: Tuesday, November 22, 2011
- Award Acknowledgement: December 10, 2011 at The Pennsylvania Society Annual Dinner
- Award Presentation: April 2012 at The Pennsylvania Society Annual Meeting in Lancaster, PA

New streamlined guidelines

Applicants must:

1. Be a junior in good standing at a public high school in Pennsylvania.
2. Write an essay of not more than 750 words discussing the modern day relevance and applicability of the following writing of Benjamin Franklin:

"The good men may do separately is small compared with what they may do collectively."

3. Complete the application form.
4. Submit the application form and essay to the Benjamin Franklin Scholar Award Coordinator designated by the high school.

New streamlined guidelines (Continued)

Participating high schools must:

1. Designate a faculty member to serve as the Benjamin Franklin Scholar Award Coordinator, as indicated in the fourth item listed above.
2. Designate persons to read and evaluate all essays, using the scoring rubric provided by The Pennsylvania Society.
3. Select no more than three (3) essays to be submitted for consideration at the state level. (Note: These essays will then be reviewed by judges named by the Pennsylvania Association of School Counselors, the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, based on the same scoring rubric as used by evaluators at each high school.)
4. The name of the student and high school must appear on each submitted essay.
5. Essays, completed application forms and a transmittal form must be e-mailed to scholaraward@pasociety.com or faxed to 215-233-2652.

The deadline for essays and forms is Monday, October 17, 2011. This deadline will not be extended.

Scoring Rubric

- 9-8** Superior papers specific in their references, cogent in definitions, and free of information that is not relevant to the topic. These essays need not be without flaws, but they demonstrate the writer's ability to control elements of effective composition.
- 7-6** These papers are less thorough, less perceptive or less specific than 9-8 papers. These essays are well written but with less maturity and control than the top papers. They demonstrate the writer's ability to analyze a literary work, but they reveal a more limited understanding than do the papers in the 9-8 range. Generally essays rated 6 present a less sophisticated analysis and less consistent command of the elements of effective writing than essays scored 7.
- 5** Superficiality characterizes these essays. Discussion of meaning may be pedestrian, mechanical, or inadequately related to the chosen details. Typically, these essays reveal simplistic thinking and/or immature writing. They usually demonstrate inconsistent control over the elements of composition and are not as well conceived, organized or developed as the upper-half papers. On the other hand, the writing is sufficient to convey the writer's ideas.
- 4-3** Discussion is likely to be unpersuasive, perfunctory, underdeveloped or misguided. The meaning they deduce may be inaccurate or insubstantial and not clearly related to the question. Part of the topic may be omitted altogether. The writing may convey the writer's ideas, but it reveals weak control over such elements as diction, organization, syntax or grammar. Typically, these essays contain sufficient misinterpretations of the topic or the work they discuss; they may also contain little, if any, supporting evidence, and practice paraphrase and plot summary at the expense of analysis.
- 2-1** These essays compound the weakness of essays in the 4-3 range and are frequently unacceptably brief. They are poorly written on several counts, including many distracting errors in grammar and mechanics. Although the writer may have made some effort to address the topic, the views presented have little clarity or coherence.

Application Form

Student Name: _____

High School Name: _____

High School Address: _____

High School Phone Number: _____

School District: _____

Title of Essay: _____

The student (or parent or legal guardian, if the student is an unemancipated minor) must complete the following:

- I consent to the submission of this essay for consideration in the Benjamin Franklin Scholar Award program.
- I give permission to The Pennsylvania Society to publish in whole or in part my essay if selected as a winning entry without compensation or consideration beyond the amount of the Scholar Award.

Signature of (please check):

Student

Parent

Legal guardian

ATTESTATION

I attest that the student indicated above is enrolled and currently in good academic standing with this high school as of this date.

Building principal or authorized person:

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Transmittal Form

I am the Benjamin Franklin Scholar Award Coordinator at:

_____.
(name of high school)

I certify that all essays were evaluated based on the scoring rubric provided by The Pennsylvania Society. As directed in the box below, we are submitting the following essays for consideration in the statewide judging:

NAMES OF STUDENTS:

TITLES OF ESSAYS:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

(Note: No more than three (3) essays may be submitted by any high school.)

In addition to this form, we are submitting completed application forms for each of the students. My contact information appears below if you need additional information.

Benjamin Franklin Award Coordinator:

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

High School Name: _____

High School Address: _____

New streamlined instructions on submitting essays and forms

Submit the following three documents via e-mail to scholaraward@pasociety.com or fax to 215-233-2652:

- A completed transmittal form
- An essay as a Word document for each student
- A completed application form for each student