



The Benjamin Franklin Scholar Award honors one of our nation's Founding Fathers and great philosophers.

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 of Dr. 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.

**2010-2011 Essay Submission Deadline: Monday, October 18, 2010**

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## 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 email address.
8. The essay may or may not be an assigned part of a formal class or registered home school assignment.
9. The essay must be submitted via email as a Word document attachment to scholaraward@pasociety.com.
10. All questions regarding the competition should be directed via email 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

### **2009-2010 Calendar**

- **Essay Submission Deadline: Monday, October 18, 2010**
- Winner Notification: Monday, November 22, 2010
- Award Acknowledgement: Saturday, December 11, 2010 at The Pennsylvania Society Annual Dinner
- Award Presentation: April 2011 at The Pennsylvania Society Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## 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 idea of what is true merit should also be often presented to youth, explained and impressed on their minds, as consisting in an inclination joined with an ability to serve mankind, one’s country, friends and family; which ability is to be acquired or greatly increased by true learning; and should indeed be the great aim and end of all learning.”***

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

## Guidelines (Continued)

### **Participating High Schools must:**

1. Designate a faculty member or administrator to serve as the Benjamin Franklin Scholar Award Coordinator, as provided in the fourth (4) 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. The essays must be in a Word document and e-mailed to:  
scholaraward@pasociety.com
6. A completed application form and transmittal form must be mailed to:  
The Pennsylvania Society  
808 Bethlehem Pike, Suite One  
Erdenheim, PA 19038-8110

The deadline for essays, application forms and transmittal forms is Monday, October 18, 2010. 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 electronic versions of 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Instructions on Submitting Forms

Submit:

- One completed transmittal form
- One completed application form **for each student**

Send to:

The Pennsylvania Society  
808 Bethlehem Pike, Suite One  
Erdenheim, PA 19038-8110

**AND**

Submit:

- A separate Word document for each essay submission. Include the student's name and high school's name on the document.

E-mail to:

[scholaraward@pasociety.com](mailto:scholaraward@pasociety.com)