

Maysville Community and Technical College's
7th Annual Student Short Essay Competition
Fall 2013

Who can enter?

Anyone from the Maysville, Licking Valley, or Rowan Campuses, as well as students from the Donald W. Kiser Paris Extension and the Montgomery Extension, who is also currently enrolled in at least one MCTC class.

Do I have to be taking a writing class to enter?

No.

What can I win?

First place: \$200; Second place: \$100; Third place: \$75

What are the specifics and requirements?

You are asked to write on the following topic:

Since education comes in many forms from a variety of sources (and often from unlikely places), write about something specific you have learned either from a person, experience, or challenge you have encountered. **Make the title of your essay the thing you have learned, as in the sample paper mentioned below.** This is to be a reflective essay, meaning that what you write about needs to have occurred in the past so that you have the perspective necessary to truly reflect. To see an excellent shorter example, go to the National Public Radio website and read "Always Go to the Funeral" by Deirdre Sullivan (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4785079>).

- Your essay should NOT be a research paper but a narrative with a specific focus.
- Do not simply write a "this happened then this happened" paper; your paper should be reflective and analytic, which means you analyze the importance of something in your life and translate that significance to your audience. (No journal entries, please.)
- Submit **your own original, unpublished essay** (one essay per student).
- Your essay must be between 300-750 words.
- Type your paper following the Modern Language Association (MLA) format, which means the essay should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and include a **title**. (Do NOT include your name anywhere on the essay itself, only on the entry form.)
- Include an **official entry form**. Entry forms are available at your library circulation desk and from the desk in the Liberal Arts & Education suite (A-264) on the Maysville campus.

- **NO IDENTIFYING MARKS should be on the essay itself.** Instead, include a **cover sheet** with your name, **student ID number**, address, phone number, e-mail address, and home campus (Maysville Campus, Licking Valley Campus, Rowan Campus, Montgomery Extension or Paris Extension). Attach this cover sheet to your essay with a paper clip.
- Licking Valley Campus, Rowan Campus and students at our Extensions:

Please mail your entries to
 Dr. Lynn Shaffer
 Liberal Arts & Education
 Maysville Community & Technical College
 1755 US 68
 Maysville, KY 41056

- Entries must reach the Maysville campus by **4 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23**. For help using campus mail, see an instructor. **NO LATE OR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- Submissions not following these guidelines will be disqualified.
- First-, second-, and third-place winners will receive prize money.
- By entering, you are implying consent to publish your essay and/or photograph in campus publications, including websites.

Where do I submit my essay?

Put it in the box on administrative assistant Joyce Gallagher's desk in the Liberal Arts & Education suite (A-264) at the Maysville campus. The box will be marked for your convenience. Students at other campuses can send their submissions via campus mail, but **plan ahead** to ensure your submission arrives by the due date (NO electronic submissions, please). **DO NOT E-MAIL YOUR SUBMISSIONS; THEY WILL NOT BE READ.**

What else do I need to know?

Essays will be judged anonymously by several of the college's faculty members. All finalists will be asked to read at an informal reception in November and at that time the first-, second-, and third-place winners will be announced and prizes awarded. We will also publish the winning works on the college website, so **please have an electronic copy ready to send in case you are a finalist.**