

JOELLEN VINYARD ESSAY PRIZE

The History Section is pleased to announce its fifth annual undergraduate history essay competition.

Essay Guidelines

Entries must deal with a historical topic or theme. A good history essay is one that asks an interesting question and supports its answer in an effective and persuasive manner. Essays should focus on a specific topic, theme, or historiographical problem and present a thesis. An essay that is narrowly focused and is based on a thesis is likely to be more effective and persuasive than an essay that ranges far and wide, is essentially descriptive, or is largely a narrative. Entries must be accurate in grammar and spelling and must be clear in their organization and presentation. While an essay may have received a good grade for a class, there are always opportunities for its improvement. It is strongly recommended that students consult with their instructor before submitting an essay to consider how it can be improved.

Prizes: 1st \$150. 2nd \$50.

Rules

- Eligibility: essays written by current EMU undergraduate students for undergraduate credit at EMU during 2019 (i.e. during the winter 2019, summer 2019, or fall 2019 terms).
- One essay per person can be submitted.
- Essays are to be 10-12 pages (about 2,500-3,000 words) excluding the bibliography.
- Entries must be word-processed with standard-sized pages, double-spaced, have numbered pages, and use 12-point font (preferably Times New Roman).
- Entries must also include footnotes and a bibliography of sources used. All citations must be formatted according to the *Chicago* style.
- On the first page of the essay state the title of the essay.
- In a separate document or in the accompanying email, provide the following details: title, author's name and E#, permanent address, course and instructor's name for which the paper was written, and semester in which the paper was written.

Submit essays by email as an attachment to: history.essay@emich.edu

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: MARCH 16, 2020.

Committee of Judges

A committee of at least three EMU history faculty will anonymously review entries (i.e. the judges will not know the identity of essay authors). The judges reserve the right not to make an award if there are no satisfactory entries. The decisions of the judges are final. Judges reserve the right to verify the authenticity of any essays. Any example of plagiarism will be disqualified and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

Awards will be announced on March 31, 2020 at the History and Philosophy Department's Honors Ceremony.