

# The Freedom From Religion Foundation's 2012 High School Senior Essay Contest

*For College-Bound High School Seniors*



First Place: Herbert Bushong Award — \$3,000

Second Place — \$2,000

Third Place — \$1,000

Fourth Place — \$500

Fifth Place — \$300

Honorable Mention(s) — \$200

## **Describe a Moment When you Stood Up for Freethought and/or That Made You Proud to Be a Freethinker (Atheist/Agnostic/Nonbeliever)**

**Eligibility:** High school seniors graduating in spring 2012 in North America who are college-bound in fall 2012.

**Topic:** Describe a moment when you stood up for freethought and/or that made you proud to be a freethinker. A freethinker is “one who forms his or her opinion about religion based on reason, rather than faith, tradition or authority.” Maybe you had a moment, experience or “epiphany” that led to or affirmed your rejection of religion. Maybe you stood up for freethought or spoke out against the encroachment of religion at school social events, in government, in classroom instruction or in your family. Use that moment to illustrate why you are a freethinker.

**Length:** 500 to 700 words. Include word count. Submit typed, double-spaced essay with standard margins.

**Other Requirements:** Choose your own title. Do not include a resume. Please staple. Place your name and essay title on each page. Include a separate paragraph biography identifying your age, birthdate, hometown, the college or university you will be attending in the fall, intended major and interests or high school achievements. Include your name, mailing address, phone number(s), and e-mail address. Winners may be asked to send verification of student enrollment. Essay must be submitted both by mail and e-mail by deadline (see below).

By entering contest, students agree to have winning essays printed in full or in part in Freethought Today, FFRF's newspaper, and later posted online at FFRF's website. Winners agree to provide a photograph suitable for reproduction with their essay. Winners will receive a school-year subscription to Freethought Today. All eligible non-winning students will be offered a subscription or a freethought book. Note: FFRF monitors for plagiarism.

**Deadline:** June 1, 2012. Winners will be announced by August.

**Mailing specifications:** Mail postmarked no later than June 1, 2012, to:

**High School Essay Contest  
FFRF  
PO Box 750  
Madison WI 53701**



**Email:** Also email your essay no later than midnight, June 1, 2012, to: [highschoolessay@ffrf.org](mailto:highschoolessay@ffrf.org). Use the word “essay” and your first and last name in the subject heading. Example: Essay: (Your full name). Please include a copy of everything indicated in requirements. **Guidelines are also posted at: [ffrf.org/outreach/student-essay-contests/](http://ffrf.org/outreach/student-essay-contests/)**

**About Herbert Bushong:** Mr. Bushong, a FFRF Lifetime Member is a nonagenarian with an interest in helping freethinking students.