



Kathy Speaker MacNett, Treasurer
320 Market Street, Suite 600W
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone: 717-233-1000
www.finneganfoundation.org

THE JAMES A. FINNEGAN FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION SUMMER 2024 ESSAY CONTEST

Please provide the following Required Documents:

1. **TRANSCRIPT.** A grade transcript, from the registrar or other appropriate administrative official in your college or university. It should have background information explaining grade symbols and, if possible, indicating relative class standing of the applicant. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable.
2. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES STATEMENT.** A statement describing the applicant's participation in extra-curricular activities or civic activities. It may be in narrative or outline form. Please limit to 500 words in length.
3. **REASON FOR APPLYING STATEMENT.** A statement describing the applicant's reason for applying for the essay contest. Again, limit to 500 words in length.
4. **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.** Up to three letters of recommendation. The number of letters of recommendation is not as important as their content and the opportunity which the faculty member, administrative official, or community leader has had to evaluate the applicant's ability, performance, and leadership potential.
5. **APPLICATION FORM.** Completed Application Form (see page 2)
6. **ESSAY.** (Question on last page). The Essay should:
 - a. Be at least 1,500 words in length but no more than 2,500
 - b. Be 12-point Times New Roman, double spaced
 - c. Be consecutively page numbered
 - d. Include a cover sheet with the name of the applicant and the name of his/her educational institution
 - e. NOT include the name of applicant or educational institution anywhere on the essay
 - f. Answer to the question
 - g. Include a bibliography (this will not count toward the word limit)
 - h. Be electronically transmitted no later than 11:59 PM on January 26, 2024, or POSTMARKED no later than January 26, 2024. Please mail the application to Kathy Speaker MacNett, Treasurer, 320 Market Street, Suite 600W, Harrisburg, PA 17101 or submit via email to FinneganEssayContest@gmail.com
7. **JUDGING.** Judges will assess applicants on content as well as their ability to follow standard directions, grammar, and proof-reading.



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THE JAMES A. FINNEGAN FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION
2024 ESSAY CONTEST APPLICATION

Name of Applicant: _____

Address of Applicant:

Present: _____

Permanent: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone Numbers: Present: (____) _____ Permanent: (____) _____

College or University Attending:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Major Study: _____ Minor Study: _____

Each Applicant certifies that they are:

1. A resident of Pennsylvania attending an accredited college or university at the time the essay is submitted, here or elsewhere; OR A non-resident student attending an accredited Pennsylvania college or university at the time the essay is submitted.
2. An undergraduate student working toward a baccalaureate degree to be obtained (year) _____.
3. Not be a previous winner of a James A. Finnegan Fellowship internship.
4. Available to serve an internship in Harrisburg, PA for a minimum of 8 weeks and a maximum of 10 weeks beginning on or about the last week of May 2024 and concluding on or about the last week in August 2024. In person internships are planned, but cannot be guaranteed. Unavailability to serve the internship will disqualify an applicant from the competition and related monetary awards, even if the applicant's essay is noteworthy.
5. Eligible to work in the United States.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



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THE JAMES A. FINNEGAN FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION
2024 ESSAY QUESTION

PASS SCHOLARSHIP, YES OR NO

This year's Pennsylvania budget negotiations focused on a new educational issue known as "PASS" – the "PENNSYLVANIA AWARD FOR STUDENT SUCCESS" scholarship program.

The program would give state-funded vouchers to eligible students who are enrolled in "low achieving" public schools and whose parents are low- income earners. The vouchers would be used for tuition at non-public schools.

The supporters of the proposal say that it would give students in low-performing school districts more choices in picking schools that might better serve their needs. Opponents say that the proposal would divert badly needed resources from the state's public schools to private and religious schools.

What is your opinion on this critical issue facing the Commonwealth and what are the reasons for your opinion?

The Application and 2024 Essay, together with Required Documents 2, 3, 4 and 6 (as listed on page 1) must be electronically transmitted no later than 11:59 PM on January 26, 2024, or POSTMARKED no later than January 26, 2024. Please mail the application to Kathy Speaker MacNett, Treasurer, 320 Market Street, Suite 600W, Harrisburg, PA 17101 or submit via email to FinneganEssayContest@gmail.com. All emailed documents must be in Word or .pdf format.