Kathy Speaker MacNett, Treasurer
3401 North Front Street
P.O. Box 5950
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717-232-5000
www.finneganfoundation.org

THE JAMES A. FINNEGAN FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION
SUMMER 2027 ESSAY CONTEST - INSTRUCTIONS

Please provide the following ***Required Documents***:

1. **APPLICATION FORM**. Completed Application Form (see page 2)
2. **ESSAY**. (Question on last page). The Essay should:
    a. Contain between 1,500 words (minimum) and 2,500 (maximum)
    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/their educational institution
    e. NOT include the name of applicant or educational institution anywhere within the numbered pages of the essay
    f. Answer 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 22, 2027 via email to FinneganEssayContest@gmail.com, OR mailed with a POSTMARK no later than January 22, 2027 to Kathy Speaker MacNett, Treasurer, 3401 North Front Street, P.O. Box 5950, Harrisburg, PA 17110.
    i. Note: Judging is considered as a "Blind Judging". Judges will assess applicants on essay content as well as their ability to follow standard directions, grammar, and proof-reading. All personal identifiers are removed from materials prior to judging to ensure blind judging process.
3. **LETTER(S) OF RECOMMENDATION**. Up to three letters of recommendation may be submitted. The number of letters of recommendation is not as important as their content and a description of the opportunity which the faculty member, administrative official, or community leader has had to evaluate the applicant's ability, performance, and leadership potential.
4. **TRANSCRIPT**. A grade transcript, containing background information explaining grade symbols and, if possible, indicating relative class standing of the applicant. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable.

Optional Items to be consider after blind judging:

5. **RESUME or 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.
6. **REASON FOR APPLYING STATEMENT OR VIDEO**. A statement describing the applicant's reason for applying for the essay contest. The written statement is limited to 500 words in length; or a 25MB file size for video statement.

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THE JAMES A. FINNEGAN FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION
2027 ESSAY CONTEST APPLICATION

Name of Applicant: _____

Address of Applicant:

Present: _____

Permanent: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone Numbers: Home: _____ Cell: _____

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
   ☐ 2027 ☐ 2028 ☐ 2029 ☐ 2030
3. Not be a previous winner of a James A. Finnegan Fellowship internship.
4. Available to serve an in-person internship, generally in an agency under the Governor's jurisdiction in Harrisburg, PA,[1] for a minimum of 8 weeks and a maximum of 10 weeks beginning on or about the last week of May 2027 and concluding on or about the last week in August 2027. In person internships should be planned. 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.
6. Not utilizing Generative Artificial Intelligence in preparing any of the essays submitted for this competition. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence may disqualify applicant.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

[1] Unless the agency allows remote work.

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THE JAMES A. FINNEGAN FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION
2027 ESSAY QUESTION

DEVICES IN SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

Over the last several years, there has been a significant increase in the use of technological devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones in school classrooms around the country. That increase has been accompanied by complaints from many parents that the use of these technological devices has gone too far and students are distracted while attending class. The result has been angry parent protests at School Board meetings in Pennsylvania and around the country.

Should there be an effort to curtail or even eliminate these devices in school classrooms. If so, why?

Or, do you believe that the current use of those devices is valuable and there should be no effort to reduce their usage. If so, why?

The completed Application Form (Required Document 1) and 2027 Essay (Required Document 2), together with Required Documents 3 and 4 and Optional Documents 5 and/or 6 (as listed on page 1) must be electronically transmitted, no later than 11:59 PM on January 22, 2027, via email to FinneganEssayContest@gmail.com, OR mailed with a POSTMARK no later than January 22, 2027 to Kathy Speaker MacNett, Treasurer, 3401 North Front Street, P.O. Box 5950, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

All emailed documents must be in Word or .pdf format.