



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 2023 ESSAY CONTEST

Please provide the following Required Documents:

1. **TRANSCRIPT.** A grade transcript, certified by 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. From time to time, the Judges will rely upon formatted uncertified transcripts knowing that the applicant does not control the timing from the Registrar's office.
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.** 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).
 - a. Should be at least 1,500 words in length but no more than 2,500
 - b. Should be 12-point Times New Roman, double spaced
 - c. Should be consecutively page numbered
 - d. Should include a cover sheet with the name of the applicant and the name of his/her educational institution
 - e. Should NOT include the name of applicant or educational institution anywhere on the essay
 - f. Should be designed to serve as an answer to the question
 - g. Must have a bibliography
 - h. Must be electronically transmitted no later than 11:59 PM on January 27, 2023 or POSTMARKED no later than January 27, 2023. 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
2023 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 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 2023 and concluding on or about the last week in August 2023. Due to COVID-19, Hybrid Internships (In person and remote) are planned, but cannot be guaranteed.
5. Eligible to work in the United States.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



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THE JAMES A. FINNEGAN FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION
2023 ESSAY QUESTION

THE USE OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

In Pennsylvania in recent years, there has been an increased use of constitutional amendments to change laws in this state.

In particular, there is a possibility that Pennsylvania voters this spring will be asked to vote on a proposal involving the General Assembly's authority over regulations, the way Lieutenant Governors are elected, the availability of abortions in this Commonwealth, the required use of voter identification at the polls, and requiring the Auditor General to conduct election audits.

The Supporters of this process say it is a way to allow the people of the Keystone State to vote directly on important issues. Opponents maintain that this mechanism bypasses the usual legislative process and eliminates the role of the Governor and the opportunity for judicial review by the courts.

What do you think? Is the increased use of the constitutional amendment process an appropriate way to establish public policy in Pennsylvania? Why or why not?

The Application and 2023 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 27, 2023 or POSTMARKED no later than January 27, 2023. 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.