Hackley Public Library

The John W. & Ruth B. Robinson Essay in the Humanities

Annual Awards

Three monetary awards of up to $2,000 each are made each year for outstanding essays in the humanities written by a high school junior or senior and entered by a Muskegon County teacher. The John W. and Ruth V. Robinson Awards for Essays in the Humanities are presented by Hackley Public Library.

Are There Requirements for Content and Purpose? The essays must be in the form of a research paper that is a critical evaluation of an idea, an author, a book, or a poem or poems; or historical study; or a theoretical examination of a subject from a political point of view.

Are There Other Requirements? All essays must conform to the established standards for 11th and 12th grade level work, including documentation of sources consulted to avoid plagiarism. Essay length will be determined by the scope of the assignment.

How Are Essays Submitted? Muskegon County high school teachers of English, history or government are invited to submit essays by their 11th and 12th grade students that were written as part of a regular class assignment.

When Should Essays Be Submitted? Teachers may submit essays by March 22, 2019 for this year’s prizes.

Are There Special Instructions for Submitting an Essay? A cover page for each essay must including the following information:

- Student’s Name
- Name of High School
- Year in high school
- Name of Teacher
- Title
- Date
- Subject (class) for which the essay was composed

How Should Essays Be Mailed Submitted? E-mail directly to: kodershem@hackleylibrary.org OR Mail or bring essays to:

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How Are the Essays Judged? Winning essays are chosen by a panel of experienced teachers and professors.

Additional Information: The Robinson awards are presented to the assembly of the winner’s school. The three winning essays are linked to the library’s webpage, www.hackleylibrary.org/pg/ABOUT/robinson_essay.html. The name of the award winner is engraved on a plaque and hung permanently in the Hackley Public Library.

All essays submitted become the property of the Hackley Public Library. Winning essays become part of the Hackley Distinguished Lecture collection. Teachers are urged to retain copies of essays submitted. The Hackley Public Library is not responsible for lost or misplaced essays. The John W. and Ruth V. Robinson Fund is managed and administered by the Community Foundation for Muskegon County.