

SKAGIT COUNTY DEMOCRATS ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES

The 2018 Skagit County Democrats Essay Contest topic is "**The Impact of Social Media on Truth and Democracy.**" The top three entries will receive awards of \$750, \$500, and \$250, respectively.

Eligibility

The contest is open to juniors and seniors from all Skagit County public high schools.

Requirements

1. The Constitution of the United States supports the concept of a free press and the right of individuals to express an opinion. How do social media and the internet affect those guarantees? On the topic "**The Impact of Social Media on Truth and Democracy,**" discuss the positive and/or negative effects of social media, explaining your reasoning for the position(s) you take.
2. Essays must be the original work of the student.
3. Essays must be long enough to fully explain the writer's points, but no more than 750 words. Footnotes and citations are not required, but if used, they will not be included in the 750 wordcount.
4. Essays must be submitted between January 15 and March 16, 2018.

Submission criteria

1. Method of entry is **only** via email to SCDessayentry@yahoo.com
2. **NO** attachments will be accepted; copy and paste text into body of email.
3. Include name, address, telephone number, and school at the beginning of the essay and in **NO OTHER PLACE** to allow anonymous judging.
4. Entries received after March 16, 2018 will not be accepted.

Criteria for judging

1. Demonstrated understanding of the topic
2. Insight, incisiveness, originality
3. Persuasiveness
4. Presentation - style, clarity, vocabulary, structure, grammar.

Procedure

1. Essays will be judged by a team representing Skagit County Democratic Party officers, educators, and community members.
2. Winners will be announced on the Skagit County Democrats website, skagitdemocrats.org on April 1, 2018.
3. Winners will be invited to a reception at the Skagit Democrat Headquarters to read their essays and receive their awards.

Miscellaneous

1. Judges will have no knowledge of a contestant's name, school, relationships, ethnicity, or any other legally protected status.
2. No particular view or perspective will be imposed on the essays in the judging; student conclusions and opinions will be evaluated based on the strength of the facts and reasoning set forth in support of those conclusions and opinions.
3. No individual notice will be given to non-winning entrants.
4. The Skagit County Democrats, as sponsor of the contest, will be the final arbiter of all questions regarding entries, judging, interpretation of the rules, and any other aspect of this contest.
5. Essays become the property of Skagit County Democrats and winning essays will be posted on the Skagit County Democrats website.