

“Once you learn to be read, you will be forever free.”

“To educate a man is to unfit him to be a slave.”

Frederick Douglass

Abolitionist and Human Rights Advocate (1817-1895)

Frederick Douglass Institute Book Award

The Frederick Douglass Institute at West Chester University of Pennsylvania invites applications for Frederick Douglass Institute Book Award (Two Awards at \$500 each). This book award is open to all full-time students in good academic standing. The Frederick Douglass Institute Book Award provides recipients with an annual stipend for textbooks. The Book Award pays tribute to the value that Douglass placed on education and human rights by presenting worthy recipients with financial support for the academic year. With each Book Award given, the spirit of Douglass stands alongside the recipient, passing on the key to freedom.

To be considered for the book award, you must:

- **be a full time student at WCU. Graduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 credits, and 12 credits for undergraduate students;**
- **have a cumulative G.P.A. of at least 2.75;**
- **be in good academic standing; and,**
- **submit a completed application by September 14, 2017. Your application must be received not later than 5:00pm of this date.**

Your application MUST be sent electronically to FDOUGLASS@WCUPA.EDU. Please indicate FDI BOOK AWARD in the subject line of your email.

The FDI Book Award will be presented at a ceremony in May 16th 2018. Award Recipients must attend the dinner to receive their award. Book Award recipients are expected to participate in FDI activities and serve as FDI ambassadors during the 2017-2018 academic year.

CHECKLIST

- A completed application (attached below)
- A 150-word paragraph of biographical information about yourself
- A 300-word paragraph on the topic on Literacy or Social Justice s abroad and at home.
- Unofficial transcript

MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact the Frederick Douglass Institute with any questions regarding the Book Award 610-436-2766 or Fdouglass@wcupa.edu Or you can visit our website at:

http://www.wcupa.edu/_ACADEMICS/Fdouglass/documents/FDIScholarshipBookAward2017.pdf

We additionally welcome you to join us on Twitter **@WCUPA_FDI** for updates and current FDI activities.



Application for Frederick Douglass Institute Book Award

Biographical Essay (150-word essay): A biographical essay should be about yourself and can reflect a number of topics relating to your academic career, future goals, your relationship to Frederick Douglass, why you deserve this award, etc. Feel free, if applicable, to include information regarding your scholarship and honors and community service.

Essay Topic: A 300-word essay on **“Human Rights at Home and Abroad.”**

Your essay can focus on a number themes relating to human rights. Potential essays may include but are not limited to the following:

- How recent events in Syria, Korea, Iran, China, the EU, Russia, the United States, and other countries have tackled issues related to human rights.
- How social networks such as Facebook and Twitter, Instagram, the internet, and cell phones have become resourceful tools for documenting struggles for human rights.
- How threats against human rights affect international relations and efforts for peace and communication.
- Charter Schools vs. Public Schools and the concern over segregated education
- Dream Act and Citizenship
- Building a border “Wall”
- Transgender public access to restrooms.
- ACA – Affordable Care Act
- Employment Discrimination
- EPA and environmental concerns (Flint Michigan, PA School water)
- Age, race, gender, religious, physical handicap discrimination
- Diversity in the classroom and the dorm room
- Gun violence
- Opioid Endemic and Stigmatization
- Black Lives Matter movement
- Mass incarceration, police brutality and injustices against minorities in the United States

Your essay can also focus on a quotation from Frederick Douglass:

- “No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at last finding the other end fastened about his own neck.”
- “To suppress free speech is a double wrong. It violates the rights of the hearer as well as those of the speaker.”
- “Knowledge make a man unfit to be a slave.”
- “Once you learn to be read, you will be forever free.”
- “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”
- “If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground.”

General Instructions for Writing Essay:

- Essays are doubled-spaced.
- Each page should include your name.
- The first page should be the autobiographical essay.
- The second page should be your Human Rights Essay or a quote from Frederick Douglass essay.
- Font is 12pt, Times New Roman



Application for Frederick Douglass Institute Book Award

PART I – Please Print Clearly

Personal Information:

Full Name: _____ WCU-ID _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone _____ Email: _____

Permanent address (if different from above)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Education Information:

Major: _____

Placement Year: ___ Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior ___ Grad. Student

Overall GPA: _____ Expected date of completion: _____

Your Complete Application Must Include:

- Application (i.e. this page)
- A 150-word paragraph of biographical information about yourself
- A 300-word essay selected from one of the topics in this announcement
- Most recent unofficial transcript

Send completed application with attachments electronically to FDOUGLASS@WCUPA.EDU by September 14, 2017 no later than 5PM.

YOUR APPLICATION MUST BE TYPED IN MICROSOFT OFFICE WORD DOCUMENT