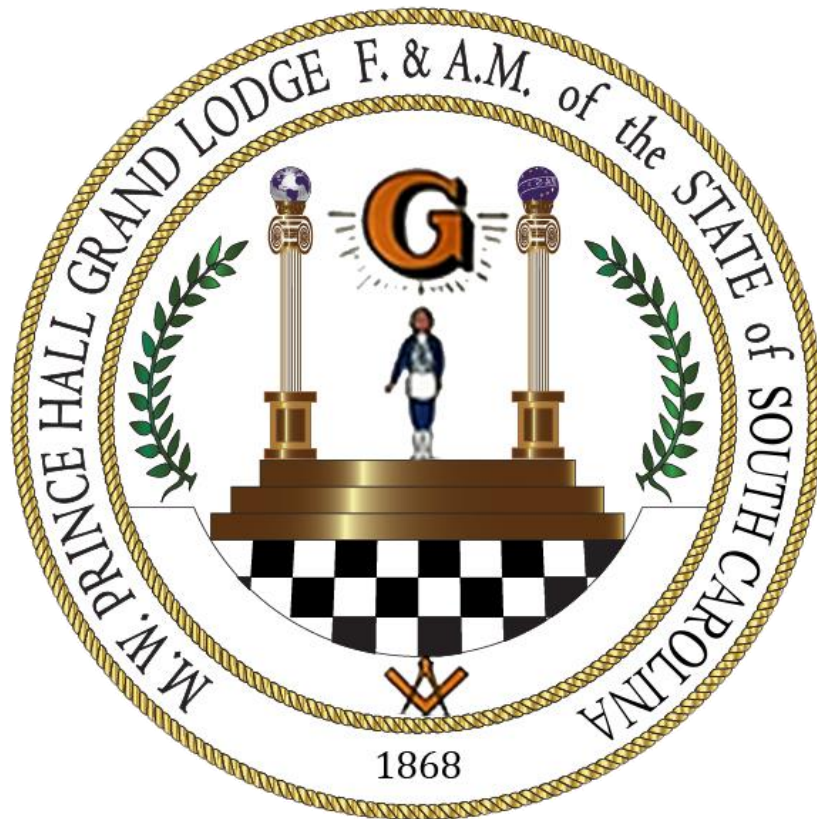


Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of South Carolina Free & Accepted Masons



Annual Scholarship Program for 2025

Guidelines for the Awarding of Scholarships

Writing Prompt and Instructions for Preparing the Essay

GUIDELINES FOR THE AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS

1. The Grand Lodge will award three (3) four-year scholarships, to be paid in annual installments of \$1000.00 each, to the three finalists who have competed on the statewide level and have satisfied, all requirements as set forth by the official Scholarship Committee of the Grand Lodge.
2. All monies will be paid directly to the colleges of the winners' choices.
- 3. The funds will be disbursed over a four-year academic period.**
- 4. Each winner must give his or her chosen college or university permission to send periodic grading reports to the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee.**
5. The scholarship will be terminated if the student fails to maintain passing grades suitable to remain in school.
- 6. One of the main criteria for the awarding of a scholarship will be on the basis of a written essay, with a minimum of five (5) paragraphs and a maximum of eight (8). The topic will be based on a research question chosen by the Scholarship Committee. THE ESSAY MUST BE ORIGINAL. Detailed guidelines for the preparation of the essay will be given to each participant.**
7. The essay must be typed and prepared in MLA (Modern Language Association) format.
- 8. The following items must also be included in each contestant's scholarship packet:**
 - a. Scholastic rank in present graduating class
 - b. Written comments from at least three (3) character witnesses, which should include leadership qualities
 - c. A statement of contestant's academic achievement
 - d. A list of school, church, and community activities in which the contestant has participated
 - e. A letter of recommendation by a school official where contestant is presently attending or last attended school
 - f. SAT or ACT score
 - g. A copy of high school transcript
- 9. ALL DISTRICT FINALISTS MUST APPEAR IN PERSON AT THE STATEWIDE LEVEL BEFORE A PANEL OF JUDGES FOR AN ORAL INTERVIEW.**
10. Each of the Masonic Districts may present one finalist only to appear as one of the statewide finalists.
- 11. District finalists' complete scholarship packets must be in the hands of the Chairman of the State Scholarship Committee not later than TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025.**
12. District Deputies will secure their own judges to judge their essays. Further, all deputies must ensure that all other required items in #8 are submitted to them, along with the essays.
13. The State Scholarship Committee selects the judges for the state elimination.
14. Contestants may be male or female.

15. The final (state) elimination will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025, 10:00 a.m., at the Grand Lodge Masonic Temple, 2324 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29202.

16. The rating for the state elimination of each district finalist will be divided into three equal parts:

- a. One-third-content of essay
- b. One-third-oral interview
- c. One-third-other criterial guidelines

17. In the case of a scholarship winner (at the state level) not accepting the initial scholarship award by September 15, or the year in which the scholarship was won, or if a winner fails to use the total amount of the scholarship award due to dropping out of school because of failure, the unused money will be prorated among all eligible winners presently enrolled in a college or university.

18. Only high school seniors are eligible to participate in the Grand Lodge Scholarship Contest.

Information for District Deputies Concerning Guidelines for Judging the Essays

IMPORTANT: District Deputies, so that there will be uniformity and fairness across the state in the judging of the essays, please be sure that all participating students get a copy of the grading rubric and the explanation page (“Grading Rubric for Written Assignments”). **Further, your panel of judges for your district MUST USE this rubric to grade the essays.** When you submit your winning essay and other supportive (required) documents to the State for the final judging, the grading rubric for that district winner MUST be submitted, as well, in the packet.

Argumentative Writing Prompt and Instructions for Preparing the Essay

What Are Your Reactions to the Results of Election 2024?*

Voters have decided. Donald J. Trump will be the next president of the United States. In the article “Donald Trump Returns to Power, Ushering in New Era of Uncertainty,” Shane Goldmacher and Lisa Lerer report:

“Donald J. Trump rode a promise to smash the American status quo to win the presidency for a second time on Wednesday, November 6, surviving a criminal conviction, indictments, an assassin’s bullet, accusations of authoritarianism, and an unprecedented switch of his opponent to complete a remarkable return to power.

“Mr. Trump’s victory caps the astonishing political comeback of a man who was charged with plotting to overturn the last election but who tapped into frustrations and fears about the economy and illegal immigration to defeat Vice President Kamala Harris.

“His defiant plans to upend the country’s political system held appeal to tens of millions of voters who feared that the American dream was drifting further from reach and who turned to Mr. Trump as a battering ram against the ruling establishment and the expert class of elites. In a deeply divided nation, voters embraced Mr. Trump’s pledge to seal the southern border by almost any means, to revive the economy with 19th-century-style tariffs that would restore American manufacturing and to lead a retreat from international entanglements and global conflict.

“Now, Mr. Trump will serve as the 47th president four years after reluctantly leaving office as the 45th, the first politician since Grover Cleveland in the late 1800s to lose re-election to the White House and later mount a successful run. At the age of 78, Mr. Trump has become the oldest man ever elected president, breaking a record held by President Biden, whose mental competence Mr. Trump has savaged. His win ushers in an era of uncertainty for the nation.”

In “Elite School Will Provide Counselors for Students Distressed by Election,” Christopher Maag reports that one of New York City’s private schools told families that “students who feel too emotionally distressed” the day after Election Day would be excused from classes and that psychologists will be available during the week to provide counseling. The article states:

“For some parents, the message reflected the fraught dialogue around the election, which both major political parties have described as a defining decision about the future of American democracy. To others, the school’s approach was emblematic of the inability to bridge the political divide in a moment of unparalleled polarization and suggested a tendency to coddle young people during difficult times.” What do you think?

Read this *New York Times* essay, dated October 31, 2024, by Christopher Maag “Elite School Will Provide Counselors for Students Distressed by Election,” in its entirety, and in a detailed argumentative essay of at least five (5) and no more than eight (8) complete paragraphs, state your opinion about how the school planned to deal with students who were emotionally distressed after the election. Further, within your essay, answer each of the following questions about the article:

- What are your reactions to the results of Election 2024? Why?
- What do you think of the decision by the private school in New York City to excuse students from classes and provide counselors the week of the election? If your school did not do

something similar, do you wish it had — or do you agree with those who feel that the approach “coddles” young people? Why?

- According to political scientists, generations are “shaped for life” by what happens during people’s teenage years and early 20s. Now that the election is over, what effect do you think it will have on your generation and your future as citizens? What, if anything, do you think adults might not understand about the election’s impact?

Use this source and at least two (2) other current sources that you choose to support your argument presented in your thesis statement. **Remember that your thesis statement should be the last sentence in your first paragraph, and be sure to underline it.** One of your other sources can also be an interview with a school administrator or a school board member. Be sure to cite the sources, according to MLA format, in the body of the paper and on a Works Cited page at the end of your essay.

*This writing prompt and instructions were paraphrased and taken from *The Learning Network: The New York Times*.

Grading Rubric for Written Assignments

Levels of Assessment

Criteria	Inadequate=D <i>(Below-Standard)</i>	Adequate=C <i>(Meets Standard)</i>	Above Average=B <i>(Exceeds Standard)</i>	Exemplary=A <i>(Far Exceeds Standard)</i>
Organization	Writing lacks logical organization. It shows some coherence but ideas lack unity. Serious errors.	Writing is coherent and logically organized. Some points remain misplaced and stray from the topic. Transitions evident but not used throughout essay.	Writing is coherent and logically organized with transitions used between ideas and paragraphs to create coherence. Overall unity of ideas is present.	Writing shows high degree of attention to logic and reasoning of points. Unity clearly leads the reader to the conclusion and sits thought regarding the topic.
Level of Content	Shows some thinking and reasoning but most ideas are underdeveloped and unoriginal.	Content indicates thinking and reasoning applied with original thought on a few ideas.	Content indicates original thinking and develops ideas with sufficient and firm evidence.	Content indicates synthesis of ideas, in-depth analysis and evidences original thought and support for the topic.
Development	Main points lack detailed development. Ideas are vague with little evidence of critical thinking.	Main points are present with limited detail and development. Some critical thinking is present.	Main points well developed with quality supporting details and quantity. Critical thinking is weaved into points.	Main points well developed with high quality and quantity support. Reveals high degree of critical thinking.
Grammar & Mechanics	Spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors create distraction, making reading difficult; fragments, comma splices, run-ons evident. Errors are frequent.	Most spelling, punctuation, and grammar correct allowing reader to progress through essay. Some errors remain.	Essay has few spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors allowing reader to follow ideas clearly. Very few fragments or run-ons.	Essay is free of distracting spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors; absent of fragments, comma splices, and run-ons.
Style	Mostly in elementary form with little or no variety in sentence structure, diction, rhetorical devices or emphasis.	Approaches college level usage of some variety in sentence patterns, diction, and rhetorical devices.	Attains college level style. tone is appropriate and rhetorical devices used to enhance content; sentence variety used effectively.	Shows outstanding style going beyond usual college level; rhetorical devices and tone used effectively; creative use of sentence structure and coordination
Format	Fails to follow format and assignment requirements; incorrect margins, spacing and indentation; neatness of essay needs attention.	Meets format and assignment requirements; generally correct margins, spacing and indentations; essay is neat but may have some assembly errors.	Meets format and assignment requirements; margins, spacing, and indentations are correct; essay is neat and correctly assembled.	Meets all format and assignment requirements and evidences attention to detail; all margins, spacing and indentations are correct; essay is neat and correctly assembled with professional look.

More help on getting better grades: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/survive.pdf>

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of South Carolina

Student _____ District # _____

District Deputy's Name _____

Student's Address and Phone _____

Name(s) of Parent or Guardian _____

School _____ Total Points _____/100

Essay Grading Rubric for 2025 Levels of Assessment

Criteria	Inadequate	Adequate	Above Average	Exemplary
Content (24)	(1-6)	(7-12)	(13-18)	(19-24)
Development (20)	(1-5)	(6-10)	(11-15)	(16-20)
Grammar & Mechanics (12)	(1-3)	(4-6)	(7-9)	(10-12)
Style (20)	(1-5)	(6-10)	(11-15)	(16-20)
Format** (24)	(1-6)	(7-12)	(13-18)	(19-24)

****BE SURE THAT THE STUDENT SHOWS EVIDENCE OF HAVING USED THE REQUIRED SOURCES FROM THE INSTRUCTIONS, AND THAT THE ESSAY IS PREPARED IN MLA FORMAT.**

**Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
South Carolina
Annual Scholarship Program 2025**

District Level Contest

To be Completed by District Level Judges

District Deputy: _____ Packet Due: March 29, 2025

Student _____

Submission Packet Checklist

Components	Included (Yes-V)/(No-X)	Comments (if needed)
Essay		
Three Character References		
Academic Achievement/School, Church, and Community Activities		
SAT/ACT Score		
High School Transcript		
Statement from School Official		

IMPORTANT: DISTRICT LEVEL PARTICIPANTS

RETURN COMPLETED SCHOLARSHIP PACKET TO:

District Deputy _____

Masonic District # _____

Address _____

DEADLINE DATE

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

Thank you kindly for participating!