

ACC Sponsors 3rd Annual Constitution Day Artistic and Creative Contests “The Right to Be Left Alone”

ACC's Center for Public Policy and Political Studies, Arts and Humanities Division, and Social and Behavioral Sciences Division will again sponsor contests for student creative and academic work in celebration of Constitution Day. Last year the center awarded over \$1,500 in prize money to students for their submissions. This year, the center expects again to award \$1,500 in prize money. In addition, the Arts and Humanities Division and the Social and Behavioral Sciences Division sponsor a publication and exhibit of winning works. Winners will be announced on Constitution Day, September 17, 2010.

Dean Lyman Grant of Arts and Humanities, Dean Gaye Lynn Scott of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Peck Young, Director of the Center for Public Policy and Political Studies encourage faculty to help students find ways to use class assignments to create works for submission to the contest, publication, and exhibit. One simple way is to adapt class assignments to this year's topics.

Creative Work:

- Two-dimensional art (including painting, drawing, printmaking, photography)
- Three-dimensional art
- Poetry
- Fiction
- Performance (including dance, drama, film and video, and performance poetry)
- Political Cartoon

Academic Work:

- Documented, researched essays (in history, government, English, philosophy)
- Personal essay

The deadline for submissions for spring 2010 semester entries is May 17.

The deadline for summer semester entries is August 6. All entries must include student ID number, mailing address, email address and telephone number.



Guidelines for Creative Work

Students are asked to submit 1-3 entries in 2-D and 3-D art, poetry, fiction, performance, and political cartoon that address “the right to be left alone.”

In 1928, Supreme Court Associate Justice Brandeis (*Olmstead v United States* 277 U.S. 438) wrote:

"The makers of our Constitution undertook to secure conditions favorable to the pursuit of happiness. They recognized the significance of man's spiritual nature, of his feelings and of his intellect. They knew that only a part of the pain, pleasure and satisfactions of life are to be found in material things. They sought to protect Americans in their beliefs, their thoughts, their emotions and their sensations. They conferred, as against the government, the right to be let alone—the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men."

Topic:

Do citizens of the United States have the right to be left alone? Should they? If they do, what does it mean to have that right? Consider one or more of the following topics: privacy, abortion, pornography, property rights, surveillance, celebrity, FERPA, wiretapping, personal information, cookies, phishing, and others. What rights do governments, schools, businesses, and other citizens have to know, limit, or regulate your beliefs, thoughts, and emotions?

Students are encouraged to use their concern for the right to privacy to produce original creative works.

Submissions of essay, performance, poetry, and fiction can be sent to Lyman Grant, by U.S. mail, by intercampus college mail, and by email. Lyman Grant, 1212 Rio Grande, Austin Community College, Rio Grande Campus, Austin, Texas 78701. lgrant@austincc.edu. 512-223-3352 All entries must include student ID number, mailing address, email address and telephone number.

Submissions of art, photography, and cartoons should be sent to Brent Baggett, 1212 Rio Grande, Austin Community College, Austin, Texas 78701. bbaggett@austincc.edu. 512-223-3263. All entries must include student ID number, mailing address, email address and telephone number.



Guidelines for Academic Essays

Students, especially those in history, government and English, are encouraged to submit essays that reference Supreme Court Associate Justice Brandies' statement in his opinion in the case *Olmstead v United States* 277 U.S. 438 :

"The makers of our Constitution undertook to secure conditions favorable to the pursuit of happiness. They recognized the significance of man's spiritual nature, of his feelings and of his intellect. They knew that only a part of the pain, pleasure and satisfactions of life are to be found in material things. They sought to protect Americans in their beliefs, their thoughts, their emotions and their sensations. They conferred, as against the government, the right to be let alone—the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men."

Topic:

Do citizens of the United States have the right to be left alone? Should they? If they do, what does it mean to have that right? Consider one or more of the following topics: privacy, abortion, pornography, property rights, surveillance, celebrity, FERPA, wiretapping, personal information, cookies, phishing, and others. What rights do governments, schools, businesses, and other citizens have to know, limit, or regulate your beliefs, thoughts, and emotions?

Researched Essays:

Students can identify a passage or passages from the court opinion that they feel resonate with some aspect of American history, law, politics, society, and/or culture. They should trace the evolution of their particular theme, identifying the key historical/judicial/political/ social/cultural events and people. Finally, they will conclude their research by answering how well the Constitution has enabled Americans to negotiate the tension between the ideals espoused and the demands of governance. Essays should be the length required by the student's classes (with a minimum of 1000 words) and be fully documented using the documentation style required by their discipline (MLA, APA, Chicago Manual of Style/Turabian, etc.).

Of course, good grammar and punctuation are essential and must meet the standards of a college-level term paper. If you are using your essay for a class assignment, with the instructor's permission, please follow all requirements that instructor has defined for that essay. Academic methods of documentation can be found at:

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

<http://library.austincc.edu/help/TURABIAN/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>



Personal Essays:

Students are also encouraged to submit essays of a more personal nature without research and documentation. These essays might be the kind written for English Composition I classes. Students should somehow confront the question: Do citizens of the United States have the right to be left alone? Should they? If they do, what does it mean to have that right? Consider one or more of the following topics: privacy, abortion, pornography, property rights, surveillance, celebrity, FERPA, wiretapping, personal information, cookies, phishing, and others. What rights do governments, schools, businesses, and other citizens have to know, limit, or regulate your beliefs, thoughts, and emotions?

The answer to that question can take many forms:

- A personal recollection of how one's family, friends, or self has experienced the protection of their right to be left alone or how protection was not received. Was your privacy protected or diminished? These instances should be very specific: boarding a plane, personal information shared without your permission or knowledge, abortion allowed or prevented.
- An argumentative essay postulating that certain practices are rightly or wrongly unlawful.
- An informative paper outlining different kinds of behaviors that have been protected or kinds that have not. An informative paper discussing the limits of the Constitution in deciding or decoding certain rights.
- An argumentative/persuasive essay outlining your opinion of how the right to be left alone will be challenged in the future. These essays should be at least 750 words in length but no longer than around 1500 words. They should be formatted in traditional college essay format.

Students in History, Government, and English are especially encouraged to submit essays. Faculty are encouraged to allow students to submit essays on this topic for class credit. All entries must include student ID number, mailing address, email address and telephone number.

Essay submissions should be sent to
Lyman Grant, Dean of Arts and Humanities
1212 Rio Grande
Austin, Texas 78701
512-223-3352
lgrant@austincc.edu

Spring semester entries are due May 17th, Summer semester entries are due August 6th
All entries must include student ID number, mailing address, email address and telephone number. More details at www.austincc.edu/ah and www.austincc.edu/cppps

