

2024 Disability History Essay Contest



Dear West Virginia High School Seniors:

The Disability History Contest Committee is pleased to announce the 2024 Disability History Essay Contest in West Virginia! This contest is designed to provide you with an opportunity to showcase your writing skills, share what you have learned about the Disability Rights Movement, use your ability to form and express opinions, and perhaps to earn some money to help you into your future! **All WV high school seniors** are invited to submit an entry. Contest rules are located on the bottom of the included entry form – be sure to **read them carefully** and follow ALL the rules.

All entries must include the completed entry form and must comply with all contest rules. Points will be deducted for any failure to follow the rules, including failure to use “people first language”. (see <http://peoplefirstwv.org/disability-etiquette/> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obbwb1bJ5io>).

The essay topic this year is:

“In 2023, the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which was incorporated as Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in 2014, celebrated its 50th anniversary. Discuss how this historical legislation has advanced access to and equity in employment opportunities for people with disabilities in your community.”

The top award will be presented to the state winner, and awards may be presented to first place and second place entries from six Districts of our state. The awards are as follows:

State Winner	\$3,250
District First Place (6).....	\$1,750
District Second Place (6).....	\$1,000

The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services has generously provided funding for all awards.

All entries must be submitted electronically by E-mail or <https://wvsilc.org/essay-entry> by midnight on **December 15, 2023** to:

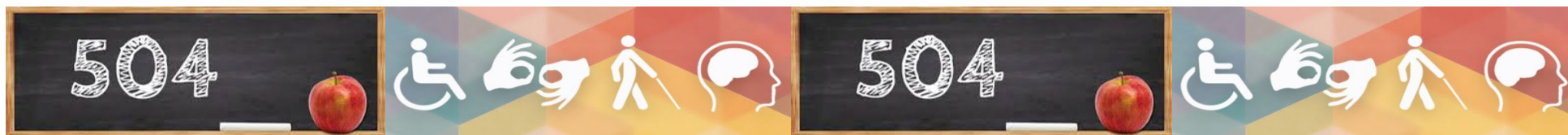
WV Statewide Independent Living Council
ATTN: Essay Contest
E-mail: trish.cash@wvsilc.org or
Link: <https://wvsilc.org/essay-entry>

(If you need assistance submitting your essay call 855-855-9743 toll free.)

This contest is a collaborative effort of the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services, the Statewide Independent Living Council and the State Rehabilitation Council, with cooperation from the WV Department of Education.



2024 Disability History Essay Contest Entry Form



Name:	Address:	Parent/Guardian Permission: <i>(Required if you are under 18 or have a legal guardian) I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest and to accept an award if selected:</i>
Birth Date:	Age: City:	
E-Mail:	State: Zip:	
Phone #:	County:	
Contestant Signature:	Parent/Guardian Signature:	
	Date:	Relationship to Contestant:

Media Release:

My signature above as contestant/parent/guardian constitutes my permission for the sponsors to use photos of me/my child/ward for public relations purposes.

Official Topic: *"In 2023, the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which was incorporated as Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in 2014, celebrated its 50th anniversary. Discuss how this historical legislation has advanced access to and equity in employment opportunities for people with disabilities in your community."*

Essay Contest Rules:

Each contestant must be given the entry form and complete rules which include information about the contest, judging, and awards.

1. The Disability History Essay Contest is open to **ALL** High School Seniors in West Virginia.
2. The Contest is statewide. Entries may be from any WV county and will be sorted into 6 (six) Districts following the districts delineated by the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services.
3. Contestants must compose an original essay, with limited assistance from others (which may include typing). An essay is an analytical or interpretive literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.
4. The panel of judges reserves the right to give fewer or no awards at its sole discretion.
5. Each contestant may submit only one essay. Multiple essays from a single contestant will be disqualified.
6. Contestants **must** write on the **official topic**.
7. Each entry **must** have a title page. The official topic; contestant's name, address, phone number,

date of birth; and name of school must be included on the title page – but not on the essay itself.

8. Essays must be typed in 12 pt. Arial, double-spaced, with a 2-page minimum and 4-page maximum of content. (Title & Reference pages are not considered content)
9. Pages must have page numbers centered at the bottom of each page (excluding the Title Page).
10. Essays must include factual information as well as the observations and opinions of the Contestant.
11. **Any quotations or copyrighted material must be properly referenced.**
12. **No reference may be made in the essay identifying the student, parents, school, or community.**
13. The essay must be written in English using "People First Language". (see links below for more info) <http://peoplefirstwv.org/disability-etiquette/> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obbwb1bJ5io>
14. To request reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, please contact the WVSILC office.

Judging:

1. Essays will be numbered to conceal writer identity.
2. Judging will be completed by an assigned panel.
3. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

Scoring Areas & Points Available:

1. Content: logical interpretation of the subject and adherence to the topic – **40**
2. Vocabulary & Style: phrasing and continuity – **30**
3. Grammar, Punctuation, & Spelling – **20**
4. Neatness – **5**
5. Adherence to Contest Rules and proper format – **5**
6. **Points will be deducted for rules violations**

Awards:

State Winner - **\$3,250**
District Winners (6) - **\$1,750** each
District Runners Up (6) - **\$1,000** each

Submit Entry electronically by midnight December 15, 2023 to:

WV Statewide Independent Living Council
ATTN: Essay Contest
E-mail: trish.cash@wvsilc.org
or <https://wvsilc.org/essay-entry>

2024 Disability History Essay Contest Scoring Chart (points for each category are maximums)

504



504



504



504



504



Organization	Development	Sentence Structure	Word Choice/Grammar	Mechanics
<p>Exemplary (10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategically placed topic sentence Clear & logical order Strong introductory, supporting & concluding paragraphs Sophisticated transition within & between sentences, ideas & paragraphs 	<p>Exemplary (20 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sophisticated development of topic–narrative & descriptive Sophisticated thesis statement – informative, persuasive Well executed progression of ideas Strong use of examples, evidence, relevant details, analogies, illustrations &/or anecdotes 	<p>Exemplary (10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sophisticated, well controlled sentences Sentence variation (simple, complex, compound) Variation of phrases & clauses 	<p>Exemplary (30 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vivid, precise, concise, relevant, consistent word choice and grammar People First Language 	<p>Exemplary (20 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May have minor errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation Capitalization Spelling Needs little or no editing
<p>Effective (8 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively placed topic sentence Clear & logical order Introductory, supporting & concluding paragraphs Purposeful transition within & between sentences, ideas & phrases 	<p>Effective (16 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate development of topic–narrative & descriptive Appropriate thesis statement – informative, persuasive Clear progression of ideas Clear use of examples, evidence, relevant details, analogies, illustrations &/or anecdotes 	<p>Effective (8 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete & correct sentences Sentence variation Variation of phrases & clauses 	<p>Effective (25 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate, precise, concise, relevant word choice Mostly consistent grammar People First Language 	<p>Effective (16 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation Capitalization Spelling Needs some editing
<p>Adequate (6 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly stated topic sentence Evidence of logical order Introductory, supporting & concluding paragraphs Repetitive use of transition 	<p>Adequate (10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient topic development Sufficient thesis statement Progression of ideas Sufficient use of examples, evidence, relevant details, analogies, illustrations &/or anecdotes 	<p>Adequate (6 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete & correct sentences Sentence variation but with errors in more complex sentences Variation of phrases & clauses 	<p>Adequate (20 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate, specific word choice Somewhat consistent grammar People First Language 	<p>Adequate (12 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation Capitalization Spelling Needs editing but readable
<p>Limited (4 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poorly stated topic sentence Some evidence of organization Introductory and concluding paragraphs –limited supporting Repetitive use of transition 	<p>Limited (6 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited topic development Limited thesis statement No logical idea progression Limited use of examples, evidence, relevant details, analogies, illustrations &/or anecdotes 	<p>Limited (4 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor errors in structure Limited variation Limited use of phrases & clauses 	<p>Limited (15 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vague, redundant, simplistic word choice Several inconsistencies in grammar 	<p>Limited (8 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation Capitalization Spelling Begins to impede readability

<p>Minimal (2 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of acceptable topic sentence • Lack of clear organizational pattern, sequencing of ideas and/or paragraphing • Lack of introductory, supporting and/or concluding paragraphs • Ineffective or over used transition 	<p>Minimal (2 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal topic development • Minimal thesis statement • No logical idea progression • Minimal use of examples, evidence, relevant details, analogies, illustrations &/or anecdotes 	<p>Minimal (2 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains fragments & run-ons • Minimal variation • Minimal use of phrases & clauses 	<p>Minimal (10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate, imprecise, repetitive word choice • Frequent inconsistencies in grammar 	<p>Minimal (4 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Punctuation ▪ Capitalization ▪ Spelling • Impedes readability
<p>Inadequate (1 point)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacks stated topic • No logical pattern – difficult to follow • Inadequate paragraphing • Little 	<p>Inadequate (1 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little/no topic development • Unclear thesis statement • Unclear or no focus • Few or no examples, details, evidence, analogies, etc. 	<p>Inadequate (1 point)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous fragments &/or run-ons • Little or no variation • Little or no use of phrases & clauses 	<p>Inadequate (5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rambling, inappropriate, incorrect, unclear word choice • Distracting inconsistencies in grammar 	<p>Inadequate (2 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious & consistent errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Punctuation ▪ Capitalization ▪ Spelling • Impedes understanding
Total _____	Total _____	Total _____	Total _____	Total _____

Judges will use this chart for scoring all essays and may score up to the maximum points listed for each category. For entrant information purposes only.