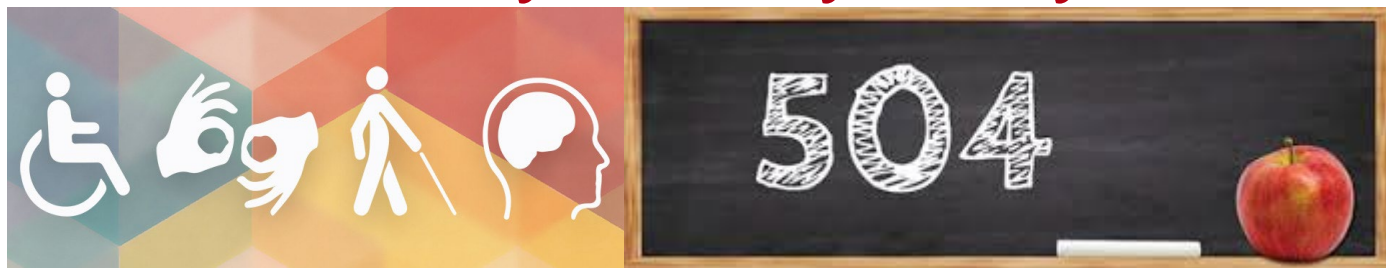


2025 Disability History Essay Contest



Dear West Virginia High School Seniors:

The Disability History Contest Committee is pleased to announce the 2025 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 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” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obbwb1bJ5io>).

The essay topic this year is:

“In 2006, a group of West Virginia youth helped to pass the law establishing Disability History Week, which requires disability history to be taught in all West Virginia public schools. Consider the barriers (including physical, attitudinal, communication, economic, etc.) faced by people with disabilities, and discuss your ideas on eliminating barriers and enhancing independent living and employment opportunities for West Virginians with disabilities.”

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 State Rehabilitation Council 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 20, 2024** 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 304-766-4624)

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.



2025 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 2006, a group of West Virginia youth helped to pass the law establishing Disability History Week, which requires disability history to be taught in all West Virginia public schools. Consider the barriers (including physical, attitudinal, communication, economic, etc.) faced by people with disabilities, and discuss your ideas on eliminating barriers and enhancing independent living and employment opportunities for West Virginians with disabilities."

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. 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,

8. 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 link below for more info) <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 20, 2024 to:

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