

# 2025 Scholarship Essay Contest

The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Scholarship Essay Contest is a chance for students to learn more about the importance of Organized Labor in America.

Over the years, we have awarded tens of thousands of dollars to students furthering their education.

Scholarships are available exclusively to Pennsylvania AFL-CIO affiliated union members and their immediate family members.

Scholarships are offered to students in two categories: graduating high school seniors (Class of 2025), and all post-secondary students.

## Essay Contest Categories

Labor unions have a rich history of aligning with broader social justice movements, fighting for economic and social equality for all. To effectively champion workers' interests, unions must actively engage in the political arena, lobbying for pro-worker legislation, supporting progressive candidates, and educating the public on the importance of a strong labor movement.

### Category 1: Graduating High School Seniors

How do Labor Unions align with broader social justice movements? In your opinion, what role do Unions play in advocating equality and equity in the workplace?

### Category 2: Post-Secondary Students

Labor Unions often play a significant role in politics. How do you think unions should engage with political systems, and what should be their focus when advocating for workers' interests?



## Scholarship Awards

First Place	\$2,000
Second Place	\$1,500
Third Place	\$1,000

## How to Apply

- Essays must be a minimum of 1,500 words on the topic in your respective category. Essays less than 1,500 words will not qualify.
- Titles must include the Category for which you are applying.
- Your application form (located on the back of this flyer) must be included with your essay in a PDF file, or as a separate PDF attachment.
- Entries sent in the incorrect format will not be considered.
- Entries must be sent to [monica@paafclcio.org](mailto:monica@paafclcio.org) by April 15, 2025.

The PDF version of this flyer is on [www.paafclcio.org](http://www.paafclcio.org)

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS APRIL 15, 2025**

**THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 DONORS!**

United Steelworkers District 10  
Plumbers Local 27  
Laborers Local 57  
UMWA Local 1368  
IBEW Local 712  
IBEW Local 1319  
USW Local 1196  
UAW Local 1193

Neshaminy Federation of Teachers  
Pittsburgh Metro Postal Workers  
NWPALF - Venango-Clarion Chapter  
IBEW Local 459  
IUOE Local 66  
United Association Local 524  
USW Local 14693  
Montgomery County CLC

***If you have questions:***

***Please contact Monica Virgilio  
at 717-231-2853, or email  
[monica@paaficio.org](mailto:monica@paaficio.org)***

PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION BELOW IN FULL AND  
INCLUDE IT WITH YOUR ESSAY SUBMISSION IN A PDF FILE.

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

\*IF YOU ARE CHOSEN AS A WINNER, PLEASE BE PREPARED TO SUBMIT A  
HEADSHOT VIA EMAIL TO BE FEATURED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS\*

NAME

ADDRESS

HOME PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

UNION AFFILIATION & LOCAL

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL (if known)

PLEASE STATE THE NAME & ADDRESS OF THE SCHOOL AND/OR PROGRAM YOU CURRENTLY ATTEND

I agree to provide proof of school acceptance or enrollment, should I become a scholarship recipient.

SIGNATURE OF CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL OR LOCAL UNION