

## THE ELIE WIESEL PRIZE IN ETHICS

### An Essay Contest

**History:** Elie Wiesel won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986 and established the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. The mission of the foundation is to advance human rights and peace by encouraging debate and discussion of moral issues throughout the world. The foundation hopes to encourage humane public policy and to encourage enlightened moral debate in the public realm. The Elie Wiesel Prize in ethics is awarded each year to students who submit essays in ethics for competition.

**The Prize:** The first place essay wins \$5,000. The second place essay wins \$2,500. The third place essay wins \$1500 and there will be two Honorable Mention prizes of \$500.

**Eligibility:** Any registered undergraduate full-time junior or senior at an accredited four year college or university in the United States during the fall of 2008 is eligible to compete.

**Criteria:** The essay topics are set each year. In 3,000-4,000 words, students are asked to raise questions, single out issues, and identify dilemmas. The approach to the essay may be from the student's viewpoint and take the form of an analysis that is biographical, historical, philosophical, literary, psychological, sociological, or theological. The essay must be the original unpublished work of one student. No group authorship is permitted. Each student may submit only one essay per year.

The essay should have a title, be in 12-point font, written in English, double-spaced, and have one-inch margins and numbered pages. No names or identifying references can appear on the title page or in the manuscript. This means that the names of the author, professors, or school of the student submitting should not appear anywhere in the paper. The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity will put a code on student essays in order to ensure that submissions are judged anonymously.

### **Suggested Essay Topics for Fall of 2008:**

- ✦ What does your own experience tell you about the relationship between politics and ethics and, in particular, what could be done to make politics more ethical?
- ✦ Articulate with clarity an ethical issue that you have encountered and analyze what it has taught you about ethics and yourself.
- ✦ From a personal viewpoint, how does globalization impact your view of the Other in society and in the world?
- ✦ Clearly analyze the relationship between religion and ethics in today's world.
- ✦ How does a recent political or cultural event shed light on the ethics of rebellion/revolution?

**Judging Criteria:** The judges are looking for clear articulation of an ethical dilemma and evidence that the student is genuinely engaged in thinking through the moral problem at issue. Essays should be fully well thought out and highly focused. Students should take care to adhere to the format guidelines and must thoroughly proofread their essays. Readers are also looking for evidence of originality, imagination, eloquence in writing, unity, and intensity in the essay as a whole. Copies of past winning essays are available at The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity Website, [www. eliewieselfoundation.org](http://www.eliewieselfoundation.org).

**Faculty Sponsor:** Each student entry must have a Faculty Sponsor from the student's school. The Faculty Sponsor must review the student's essay and sign the Entry Form. Faculty Members are strongly encouraged only to limit endorsements to thought-provoking and well written essays that adhere to the contest guidelines. Students should give faculty sponsors a copy of their essays at least two weeks prior to the submission deadline.

**Submission:** Students submit three copies of their essay. One copy should be paper-clipped and two should be stapled. Students must also include a copy of the Entry Form signed by both the student and his or her faculty sponsor. Students should include a letter on school stationery from their Registrar's Office to verify eligibility. All entries must be postmarked by the assigned date. The fall 2008 deadline for postmarks is December 19, 2007. Entries via email or fax are NOT accepted. No materials will be critiqued or returned to students. Mail Entry Form and submission materials to The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics, The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, 555 Madison Ave-20<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10022. Phone 212-490-7788.