FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR ESSAY CONTEST

Again this year, the Vice President for Academic Affairs is sponsoring an essay contest open to all students currently enrolled in a First-Year Seminar class. Broadly conceived, the objectives of the contest are to promote writing and critical thinking skills and to encourage students to reflect on the heritage and history of Muskingum University as portrayed in the Muskingum College common reading book.

Essay Format
- Each essay will be approximately 500 to 750 words in length
- Each essay will address in a creative and original way some dimension of one of the topics listed below
- Each essay must be the original work of the student submitting the essay
- Each essay must be word-processed, double-spaced on 8.5 X 11” paper
- Each essay must include the name of the author, the name of author’s First-Year Seminar instructor, a campus address or home address (for commuting students), the author’s e-mail address, and a statement that the essay is the author’s own work and not the work of another author.
- Ideas and quotations drawn from other authors must be acknowledged in the paper with full publication information

Topics
A. Throughout its history, Muskingum has been located in a small rural community. Some people might conclude from this fact that Muskingum has been isolated from the world outside its campus and the Village of New Concord. But the pictures in the Muskingum College book tell a different story. Select and discuss in an essay several specific pictures from the book that illustrate Muskingum’s involvement with world events and the College’s concern for people from other nations of the world.
B. Muskingum’s mission statement says that the University’s primary purpose is “to develop—intellectually, spiritually, socially, and physically—whole persons.” Select and discuss in an essay several specific pictures from the book that illustrate Muskingum College’s commitment to educating the “whole person” over its 172 year history.
C. Muskingum University first admitted women in 1851. How have the roles of women at Muskingum evolved over the next 158 years? Select and discuss in an essay several specific pictures from the book that illustrate how the experience of a Muskingum education has changed for women from 1851 until today.

Contest Prizes
Three cash prizes will be awarded:
First prize—$100
Second prize—$75
Third prize—$50
In addition, the entire First-Year Seminar class of the first prize recipient will celebrate with a pizza lunch.

**Evaluation Criteria**

A. Clarity and originality of thought  
B. Style, writing mechanics, and organization of ideas  
C. Persuasiveness  

A panel of faculty and staff members who are not First-Year Seminar instructors will judge the essays submitted.

**Deadline for submission of essays:**  
Friday, November 13th