

WELCOME!

The Museum of Political
CORRUPTION
Albany. NY

2015 HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY COMPETITION!

“WHAT IS POLITICAL CORRUPTION AND WHY SHOULD WE CARE?”

The Museum of Political Corruption, invites eligible U.S. High school students to submit an essay that addresses the question: **“What is political corruption and why should we care?”** The essay will be judged on its content (including persuasiveness of arguments, use of supporting data and/or quotes) and its style (including grammar, punctuation, organization, and proper citation). Any external references must be properly cited using either MLA or APA format.

The Museum of Political Corruption (“Sponsor”) is hosting this contest in order to raise awareness about political corruption among those who have just begun to vote or those who will soon be eligible to vote. Consistent with its educational mission, the Museum of Political Corruption believes that an informed electorate is the best defense against political corruption!

The Product: a one (1) page essay using standard English (on white 8.5 X 11 paper, single spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins on all sides) on the subject **“What is political corruption and why should we care?”** If external sources are used, a separate bibliography or works cited page must be attached with a staple. An essay title is not necessary. **DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON THE ESSAY** (an identifying PIN will be assigned).

How to Enter: Send your essay with a completed **Essay Contest Application Form** to: The Museum of Political Corruption, 12 Halsdorf Street, Albany, NY 12208 ATTN: Essay Contest.

Deadline: All entries must be postmarked no later Monday, November 2, 2015.

Prizes: Three prizes will be awarded: First Prize will be \$250, an official Museum of Political Corruption Coffee Mug, and publication on Huffington Post political columnist Chris Weigant's blog, www.ChrisWeigant.com; Second Prize will be \$100 and an official Museum of Political Corruption Coffee Mug; and Third Prize will be \$50 and an official Museum of Political Corruption Coffee Mug. In addition, all three winning essays will be posted on The Museum of Political Corruption's website.

SEE below for additional eligibility and rules

Eligibility and Official Rules:

Only one (1) essay submission per person. Revised essays after an initial submission will not be accepted. NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. By participating in the contest, each entrant (and entrant's parent or legal guardian if entrant is under 18) agrees to abide by these Official Rules, including all eligibility requirements, and understands that the results of the contest, as determined by Sponsor and its agents, are final in all respects. The contest is subject to all federal, state and local laws and regulations and is void where prohibited by law.

ELIGIBILITY: The contest is open to all current U.S. high school students residing in one (1) of the fifty (50) U.S. States or the District of Columbia (excluding Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S Virgin Islands and other U.S. territories), and who are between the ages of fourteen and nineteen years of age on November 2, 2015. Children and other close relatives of those associated with The Museum of Political Corruption are not eligible to enter.

SPONSOR: The 2015 High School Essay Competition ("Contest") is being sponsored by The Corporation for The Museum of Political Corruption, 12 Halsdorf Street, Albany, NY 12208.

TERM: The 2015 Museum of Political Corruption High School Essay Contest begins on September 1st, 2015. Entries must be submitted in hard copy through the U.S mail (or a comparable carrier such as UPS or FedEx) and must be postmarked no late than November 2, 2015.

JUDGING: Entries will be collected and assigned a PIN so that essays can be judged anonymously. Judges will be selected by the Sponsor. Applications will be judged on: adherence to the Contest rules (including, but not limited to the proper formatting of the essay), content (including but not limited to: persuasiveness of arguments, factual content, use of supporting data and/or quotes) and style (including but not limited to grammar, punctuation, organization, and proper citation). Decisions of the judges are final and binding.

WINNER SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION: Winners will be chosen on or around December 11, 2015, and will be notified by the contact information provided. If a potential winner cannot be reached by the Sponsor within thirty (30) days, using the contact information provided at the time of entry, that potential winner shall forfeit the prize and an alternate winner may be selected. The Corporation for The Museum of Political Corruption reserves the right to verify the validity and originality of any entry and/or entrant and to disqualify any entrant who submits an entry that is not in accordance with these Official Rules. Upon the request of the Sponsor, the potential winner may be required to return an Affidavit of Eligibility, Release and Prize Acceptance Form. If a potential winner fails to comply with these official rules, that potential winner will be disqualified. Prizes may not be awarded if an insufficient number of eligible entries are received.

Prizes: Three prizes will be awarded: First Prize will be \$250, an official Museum of Political Corruption Coffee Mug, and publication on political columnist Chris Weigant's blog; Second Prize will be \$100 and an official Museum of Political Corruption Coffee Mug; and Third Prize will be \$50 and an official Museum of Political Corruption Coffee Mug. In addition, all three winning essays will be posted on The Museum of Political Corruption's website. For additional information SEE below. Announcement of winners will be made on or about December 11, 2015. Prize is non-transferable. No substitution or cash equivalent of prizes is permitted. ALL FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL TAXES ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECEIPT OR USE OF ANY PRIZE IS SOLELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WINNER.

RIGHT TO TERMINATE CONTEST: Sponsor reserves the right to terminate, suspend or amend the Contest, without notice, for any reason, including, without limitation, if Sponsor determines that the Contest cannot be conducted as planned or should a cause beyond Sponsor's control corrupt the administration, security, fairness, or integrity of the Contest. Sponsor and its agents, and representatives are not responsible for incorrect or inaccurate transcription of entry information, or for any human error, technical malfunction, lost or delayed data transmission, omission, interruption, deletion, line failure or malfunction of any telephone network, computer equipment or software, the inability to access any website or online service or any other error, human or otherwise.

LICENSE: All entries become the property of The Museum of Political Corruption and may be reproduced and shared publicly (along with the applicant's name), used for promotional purposes, and/or displayed in future exhibitions at The Museum of Political Corruption. By entering the Contest, entrant represents, acknowledges, and warrants that the submitted essay is original, created solely by the entrant, and that any data and/or quotations are properly cited and therefore do not infringe on the intellectual property rights of any person or entity.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY: By entering this Contest, all entrants agree to release, discharge, and hold harmless The Corporation for The Museum of Political Corruption and its employees, officers, directors, and representatives from any claims, losses, and damages arising out of their participation in this Contest. The Corporation for The Museum of Political Corruption assumes no responsibility for any lost or damaged materials, either by the Sponsor or by the method used to send materials, error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, or delay in operation or transmission; technical difficulty with the Sponsor's website, communications line failure; theft or destruction of or unauthorized access to Contest entries or entry forms.

DATA PRIVACY: Entrants agree that personal data, including name and address, may be used for purposes within the context of the Contest. The data may also be used by the Sponsor in order to verify the participant's identity, contact information or to otherwise verify the participant's eligibility to participate in the Contest. At the conclusion of the Contest, with the exclusion of the winners, all other entrants' data will be responsibly discarded.

PUBLICITY: By participating, each entrant grants Sponsor permission to use his/her name, likeness or comments for publicity purposes without payment of additional consideration, except where prohibited by law.

**2015 MUSEUM OF POLITICAL CORRUPTION
ESSAY CONTEST APPLICATION FORM**

Return this form, along with your entry submission to:

**The Museum of Political Corruption,
12 Halsdorf Street, Albany, NY 12208 ATTN: Essay Contest**

If the entrant is under the age of 18 on November 2, 2015, the parental consent portion of the form must be filled out by the entrant's parent or legal guardian. Prior to filling out this form, both entrant and parent should review the Official Contest Rules located at www.albanymuseumofpoliticalcorruption.org. Please print clearly.

Entrant's name: First _____ Last _____ MI _____

Address: (Street): _____ City _____

State: _____ ZIP Code _____

Contact phone number and/or email address: _____

High School currently attending: _____

Entrant's Age (on 11/2/15) _____

(check) My name does not appear on my submitted essay.

(check) I have read and agree to the rules of this contest.

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Legal guardian Consent Form (if applicant is under the age of 18 on 11/2/15)

I certify that I am the parent/legal guardian for _____.
(entrant's name)

I hereby agree that my minor child may participate in the 2015 Museum of Political Corruption High School Essay Contest pursuant to the Official Contest Rules. I have read, understood and agree to the Terms and Conditions set forth in the Official Contest Rules, as well as this Parental Consent Form prior to signing it.

Parent or legal guardian's name (please print): _____

Parent or legal guardian's signature

Date