Dear West Virginia High School Seniors:

The Disability History Contest Committee is proud to announce the 2017 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 high school seniors are invited to submit an entry. Contest rules are located on the bottom of 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.” While federal law prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities, we still face barriers every day. The development of new technology has reduced or eliminated many barriers and people with disabilities are eager access it, when cost is not a barrier. New and promising breakthroughs in technology, including robotics, continue to attack barriers in medical care, sports, indoor/outdoor recreation, mobility, and daily living. The essay topic this year is:

“How technology has removed barriers and improved the lives of people 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 ................................................................. $3,000
District First Place (6) ................................................ $1,500
District Second Place (6) ............................................. $750

Funding for all awards is provided through a generous grant from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services.

All entries must be postmarked, faxed, or emailed by October 31, 2017 and be submitted to:

WV Statewide Independent Living Council
PO Box 625
Institute, WV 25112-0625
ATTN: Essay Contest
E-mail: kathi.young@wvsilc.org
Fax: 304-766-4721

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 and the WV Department of Education and the Arts in recognition of WV Disability History Week.
# 2017 Disability History Essay Contest Entry Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Address:</th>
<th>Parent/Guardian Permission:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth Date:</td>
<td>Age: City:</td>
<td>(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:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Mail:</td>
<td>State: Zip:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone #:</td>
<td>County:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contestant Signature:</td>
<td>Parent/Guardian Signature:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Date: Relationship to Contestant:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Media Release:

My signature above as contestant and/or parent/guardian constitutes my permission for the sponsors to use photos of me/my child/ward for public relations purposes as they see fit.

## Official Topic: “How technology has removed barriers and improved the lives of people 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 only to High School Seniors in West Virginia.
2. The contest is open to all students enrolled in grades 9 through 12. The contest is open only to students in West Virginia. The contest is open only to students in West Virginia.
3. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited assistance from others (which may include typing). 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 including: the official topic; contestant’s name, address, phone number, date of birth; and name of school.
8. Essays must be typed in 12 pt. font, double-spaced, and have no more than 4 pages of 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. Failure to reference non-original material will result in disqualification.
12. No reference can be made in the essay identifying the student, parents, school, or community.
13. The essay must be written in English using “People First Language”.
14. The entry must be stapled in the upper left corner. Covers of any type are not accepted.
15. As a reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities, entries may be submitted as audio-recordings. Such entries will be subject to all word limits and format requirements.

### 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 Rule and in proper format – 5
6. Points will be deducted for rules violations

### Awards:

- State Winner - $3,000
- District Winners (6) - $1,500 each
- District Runners Up (6) - $750 each

### Submit Entry by October 31, 2017 to:

Mail: WV Statewide Independent Living Council  
PO Box 625  
Institute, WV 25112-0625  
ATTN: Essay Contest

Fax: 304-766-4721

E-mail: kathi.young@wvsilc.org