

Fragility & Resilience: Democracy in Today's World



February 17, 2020

washjeff.edu/democracy

Calling all high school juniors and seniors!

Washington & Jefferson College announces a video contest that could earn you a cash prize! Submit a 30-60 second video answering the question: *How have you used (or how will you use) your voice to be a change agent in strengthening democracy in your own life and/or in your own community?*

On Presidents Day, February 17, 2020, W&J College will host the third annual Symposium on Democracy. This year's theme is Fragility and Resilience: Democracy in Today's World. **The winning video will be shown during the Symposium.**

Prizes

Winners will be announced the week of Feb. 10, 2020 and all winners will be invited to attend the Symposium. The first place winner will receive \$200, second place will receive \$100, and third place will win items from the W&J College Campus Store. For entries produced and/or submitted by a team, the members of the team will split the cash awards.

In addition to cash prizes, winning videos could be posted on the W&J College website if all copyright permissions are in order. Winners must provide sources for their video, listing the source of any factual statements.

Requirements and Deadlines

The contest begins now and entries are due to W&J College by 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7, 2020. Winners will be announced the week of Feb. 10.

Eligibility: Entrants must be high school juniors or seniors.

Video Requirements: Videos should include a title screen that has the contest title "Democracy in Today's World," the name of the entrant, and the title of their video. They should also include an end slide that cites any sources referenced for information included in the video. Videos should not exceed 60 seconds in length, including the title screen and end screen.

Copyrights: Videos must not use copyrighted material without permission of the copyright holder. Videos containing copyrighted material used without permission will not be eligible for prizes.

Submission of Videos: Completed videos should be uploaded at www.washjeff.edu/video-submission

About the Symposium:

Led by expert speakers, faculty and students, W&J College's Symposium on Democracy is held each year on Presidents Day and examines issues and challenges inherent in sustaining democratic societies and institutions.

The decline of democracy and freedom in many parts of the world is a growing concern of many leaders and scholars. This year's Symposium on Democracy will focus on these issues with the help of experts who can document these trends and share first-hand experience in international contexts. We will benefit equally from the expertise and experience of W&J College faculty and students.

Daily headlines remind us that democratic institutions and freedoms are under threat in places as diverse as Hong Kong, Ukraine, Venezuela, Poland and Tanzania, among many other nations. The 2020 Symposium on Democracy will provide opportunities to learn about these trends and think critically about the roles of academic freedom, press freedom, fair elections, the protection of human rights, and other foundational principles of democratic societies.

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Additional Information

Ownership of Videos and Right to Use: Entrants own all rights to their entries, but W&J College may reproduce, reprint, distribute, reference, or exhibit winning videos for promotional purposes on its website, at conferences, or in printed and/or digital publications.

Video Equipment: Videos may be produced on any equipment available to the student, including cell phones, video cameras, and computers. High school teachers or local librarians may have video equipment available for you to use. Videos can be in color or black and white, with or without sound, and with or without animation.

Judging: A panel comprised of W&J College faculty, staff, and students will judge each entry. The videos will be judged on answering the prompt creatively and with insight into how an individual student can be an agent for change.

Got Questions?

We're here to help! Please direct questions to Dr. Melissa Cook, Associate Professor of Communication Arts, at mcook@washjeff.edu.

About Washington & Jefferson College

Washington & Jefferson College, located in Washington, Pa., is a selective liberal arts college founded in 1781. Committed to providing each of its students with the highest-quality undergraduate education available, W&J offers a traditional arts and sciences curriculum emphasizing interdisciplinary study and independent study work. For more information about W&J, visit washjeff.edu, or call 888-W-AND-JAY.