



## Inaugural High School Senior Essay Scholarship

For College-Bound High School Seniors

**First Place** – \$1,000

**Second Place** – \$500

**Third Place** – \$250

**Eligibility:** High school seniors graduating spring 2015 in the Antelope Valley who are college bound in fall 2015.

### **Essay Topic: Being a Young Freethinker in the Antelope Valley**

**A freethinker is someone who develops opinions based on science and reason in contrast to faith and dogma. Write from a personal perspective encounters you've had when you object to or raise logical- or evidence-based challenges to statements of faith or dogma within your family, your school, or the Antelope Valley at large. Perhaps you've been ridiculed, harassed, or punished for speaking up against religion in the classroom, at school events, in government, or within your family. Perhaps you've been successful in convincing others of your position. Discuss the effects on you and those around you as you've dealt with these encounters.**

**Length:** 500-700 words. Include word count. Submit typed, double-spaced essay with standard margins.

**Other Requirements:** Choose your own title. Do not include a resume. Please staple. Place your name and essay title on each page. Include a separate paragraph biography identifying your age, birthdate, hometown, the college or university you will be attending in the fall, intended major and interests or high school achievements. Include your name, mailing address, phone number(s), and e-mail address. Winners will be asked to send verification of student enrollment. Essay must be submitted both by mail and e-mail by deadline (see below).

By applying, the Applicant grants to Antelope Valley Freethinkers, Inc. ("AVF") a non-recoverable, non-exclusive, and perpetual license to publish and use Applicant's name, image or likeness, and the essay or the text of the essay, accurately reproduced, in any form or format selected by AVF, represents that the essay is the original work of the Applicant. Applicant shall

retain any copyright interest in the essay that does not substantially interfere with AVF's use of the license hereby granted.

Winners agree to provide a photograph suitable for reproduction. Winners agree to attend an AVF meeting before the end of the 2015-16 school year. Scholarship awards are granted in the sole discretion of AVF and AVF reserves the right to withdraw the offer of scholarship in its sole discretion upon, *inter alia*, unavailability of funds, failure of entries to meet standards set by the judge(s), or failure of the winning Applicant to provide proof of enrollment in a college or university by October 17, 2015. Winners will be announced on August 1, 2015. Scholarships will be awarded no later than November 1, 2015. All Winners will receive a free one-year membership in AVF. Note: AVF monitors for plagiarism.

**Deadline:** July 1, 2015

**Mailing specifications:** Mail postmarked no later than July 1, 2015 to:

**High School Essay Contest  
Antelope Valley Freethinkers  
40915 40<sup>th</sup> St. West  
Palmdale, CA 93551**

**Email:** Email your essay no later than July 1, 2015 to [avfreethinkers@yahoo.com](mailto:avfreethinkers@yahoo.com) with subject heading "Essay [Full Name]," e.g., Essay Albert Einstein. Please follow all instructions.