

Network of Enlightened Women, Inc. Essay Contest OFFICIAL RULES (“Official Rules”)

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCE OF WINNING.

By entering the Network of Enlightened Women, Inc. Essay Contest (the “Contest”), you agree to be bound by these rules.

Eligibility Restrictions. To enter, you must be a legal resident of the United States (except its territories and possessions) or the District of Columbia and a female. You must be a student in your final year of high school or currently enrolled in an undergraduate institution in the United States at the time of entry. If you are under the age of 18 at the time of entry, your parent or legal guardian must enter the Contest and agree to these Official Rules on your behalf.

Employees and board members of the Network of Enlightened Women, Inc. (“NeW” or “Sponsor”), its advertising agencies, participating sponsors/promotional partners, and the members of their immediate families (spouse, parents, siblings, or children) or households (whether related or not) are ineligible to submit entries. This Contest is subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Void outside the United States and where prohibited.

Contest Dates. The Contest begins March 1, 2025 at 9:00am ET and ends March 31, 2025 at 11:59pm ET. The deadline for entries is 11:59pm ET on March 31, 2025, although it may be extended at the sole discretion of NeW. Any extension of the entry deadline will be posted on the Contest entry page at www.enlightenedwomen.org.

Prizes. The first-place winner in the high school contest and the college contest will receive a one thousand dollar (\$1,000) scholarship. There is no substitution for, or transfer of prizes, except that the Sponsor may, at its sole discretion and to the extent permitted by law, substitute prizes of comparable value. Winners are responsible for all taxes and any fees and costs associated with prize receipt and/or use. Checks will be mailed to the winners within thirty (30) days of announcement of the winners. Winners assume the risk of loss.

How to Enter. To participate, go to www.enlightenedwomen.org, click on the link for the Contest, and submit the requested information in the online entry form including but not limited to the student’s name, the name of her parent or legal guardian (if student is under 18 years of age at the time of entry), the name of the student’s high school or university, and the student’s graduation year, along with the essay. Entrants will select the high school or college contest based on their school enrollment during the fall, 2024 semester. Entries will be deemed made by the authorized account holder of the email address submitting the entry. Parents or legal guardians of students under 18 years of age at the time of entry must submit the requested information and essay.

Limit one entry per person and per e-mail account.

Essays that do not follow the Official Rules or that are late, incomplete, illegible, lost, misdirected, or otherwise defective (as determined by the Sponsor in its sole discretion) will be disqualified. Sponsor is not responsible for technical or computer failures, errors or data loss of

any kind, lost or unavailable Internet connections, failed, incomplete, garbled or deleted computer or network transmissions, inability to access any website or online service, or any other error or malfunction. Entries will not be acknowledged or returned.

Essay Content. You must write a response to the official prompt.

In today's digital world, platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, and X have revolutionized the way information is shared, consumed, and interpreted. During the 2024 Presidential Election, commentary on candidates and their policy positions spread at unprecedented speeds, shaping public opinion in real-time. Similarly, "cancel culture" has emerged as a significant phenomenon, with public figures facing intense scrutiny and widespread debates online. Social media has been transformed into the modern-day public square, where millions of users exchange viewpoints.

As these platforms increasingly influence public discourse, they also have a profound impact on the minds of our nation's youth. How do you think social media is shaping the values, beliefs, and critical thinking skills of young people today? Do you believe social media's influence on opinions and decision-making has been predominantly positive, negative, or a mix of both? Why? How has the immediacy and volume of information affected the ability of young people to engage with complex issues or consider diverse perspectives? In what ways has social media changed the traditional college experience—whether in academics, social interactions, activism, or career preparation?

Your essay must be nonfiction and between 600 and 750 words. Your essay must be a wholly original work. All copyrighted materials must be properly cited/attribution. Use hyperlinks to attribute all quotations or copyrighted material used in your essay. Entries that fail to attribute materials used in the essay will be disqualified. Essays may not contain content that is profane, demeaning, defamatory, or that would constitute an invasion of privacy, as determined by the Sponsor in its sole discretion.

At the sole discretion of the Sponsor, any submitted essay may be published in a publication of the Sponsor's choice and to the Sponsor's website.

Judging. All entries will be judged by members of the NeW management team and/or invited guests, including authors, writers, and/or community leaders. All decisions of the judges and the Sponsor are final.

Essays will be scored on the basis of quality of thought, clarity of expression, quality of writing, and the extent to which they address the prompt. Judging will begin on the day following the entry submission deadline.

Notification of Winners. After judging is complete, the highest-scoring entries will be notified by email within 24 hours of the decision being made. Winners will be announced publicly by May 10, 2025. If a winner cannot be contacted, does not respond, or the notification is returned as undeliverable, that winner will forfeit her prize. Receiving a prize is contingent upon compliance with these Official Rules. In the event any winning entry is disqualified for any reason, Sponsor may award the applicable prize to an alternate winner as determined by the judges.

The winners (or her parent or legal guardian if she is under 18 years of age) must execute and return a contest affidavit and release within four (4) days of notification or they will be disqualified and the prize will be forfeited. If potential winners cannot be contacted; fail to complete, sign and return any required release within the required time period; or if a prize or prize notification is returned as undeliverable, the potential winners will be disqualified and will forfeit the prize.

Conditions.

1. Payments of all federal, state and local taxes are solely the responsibility of the winners.
2. Participating in the Contest constitutes the entrant's permission for NeW, its employees, advertising agencies, and other agents to photograph, film and record the winners, and to use her name, address (city and state), likeness, photograph, voice, biographical information, essay and/or any statements made by her regarding the Contest or its sponsors for purposes of trade, publicity or promotion without additional financial or other compensation.
3. By participating in the Contest, you:
 - a. agree to grant NeW a non-exclusive, perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free license to edit, publish, exhibit, promote, rerun, reproduce, use, syndicate, license, print, distribute and otherwise exploit the items (including any essays, photos, videos, audio, or written material) submitted as part of your contest entry (the "Materials"), or any portion thereof, in any manner and in any and all formats and media now known or hereafter devised, without payment to you or any third party; Sponsor has the right to edit or revise your essay as it may see fit. If you publish your essay or any subsequent version of it in any media, you must acknowledge in that publication that the essay was first written or recorded as part of this Contest; and
 - b. acknowledge that NeW reserves the right, in its sole discretion, not to use the Materials at all; and
 - c. represent and warrant that: you are 18 years of age or older; you have the full legal right, power and authority to grant to NeW the license provided for herein; you own or control the complete exhibition and other rights to the Materials you submitted for the purposes contemplated in this license; and neither the Materials nor the exercise of the rights granted herein infringe upon or violate the right of privacy or right of publicity of, or constitute a libel or slander against, or violate any common law or any other right of, any person or entity.
4. By participating and/or accepting a prize, all entrants agree to release and hold harmless NeW, its promotional partner(s), and each of their respective parent, subsidiary and affiliated entities, and the officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, successors, and assigns of each of them (collectively, the "Released Parties") against any and all claims or liability arising directly or indirectly from the prize or participation in the Contest. NeW may also require eligible winners to sign a release confirming such consent.

5. NeW, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to disqualify any person (and all of their entries) from this Contest if she tampers with the entry process, the operation of the Contest, or the operation of NeW's website, or is otherwise in violation of the rules. NeW further reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to modify, cancel, terminate or suspend the Contest, or any part of it, if it is not capable of completion as planned or if any fraud, technical failures or any factor beyond NeW's control, including infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention or technical failures of any sort, corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of the Contest as determined by NeW in its sole discretion. Any attempt by an entrant or any person to deliberately damage any technology used in the Contest or to undermine the legitimate operation of this Contest may be a violation of criminal and civil laws. Should such an attempt be made, NeW reserves the right to seek full prosecution and/or damages from any such individual to the fullest extent permitted by law. NeW's failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of this provision.

6. The Released Parties are not responsible for (i) typographical or other errors in the printing, the offering or the administration of the Contest, or in the announcement of a prize; or (ii) entries not received due to difficulty accessing the internet, service outage or delays, computer difficulties, malfunctions, disconnections, other technological failures. Further, the Released Parties are not responsible if any part of a Contest prize cannot be awarded due to acts of god, acts of war, natural disasters, weather, acts of terrorism or other factors beyond NeW's control.

7. To the fullest extent permitted by law, by participating in the Contest, you understand and agree that:

- a. any and all disputes, claims, and causes of action arising out of or in connection with this Promotion, or any prizes awarded, shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action;
- b. if the parties are unable to resolve their dispute amicably, it shall be resolved by means of binding arbitration (not in a court of law);
- c. any and all claims, judgments, and awards shall be limited to actual out-of-pocket costs incurred, including costs associated with entering this Contest, but in no event and under no circumstances will entrants or winners be permitted to obtain awards for attorneys' fees, and you hereby waive all rights to claim punitive, incidental, or consequential damages, or any other form of damages, other than actual out-of-pocket expenses, and any and all rights to have damages multiplied or otherwise increased;
- d. any claim or dispute regarding the Contest or these Official Rules will be resolved pursuant to the laws of Indiana, consistent with the Federal Arbitration Act, as they apply to agreements entered into and performed entirely within Indiana by Indiana residents, without regard to conflict of law provisions; and
- e. you submit to the jurisdiction of the courts within Indiana and waive all objections to the jurisdiction or venue of such courts.

Severability. If any part of these Rules is found to be invalid by a court or otherwise, the remaining provisions of these Rules will remain valid and enforceable.

Winner List. The list of winners will be available after winner confirmation is complete. The list may be obtained at www.enlightenedwomen.org.

SPONSOR: Network of Enlightened Women, Inc., 6501 Dean Road, Indianapolis, IN 46220.