

**Month: November**

**NAME OF SCHOLARSHIP or PROGRAM: The FIRE “Freedom in Academia” Student Essay Contest**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) is pleased to announce its fourth annual “Freedom in Academia” student essay contest. High school seniors from across the U.S. are invited to write an in-depth essay explaining why free speech and First Amendment rights are crucial to higher education and how abuses of these rights harm the college experience.

**AMOUNT: \$5,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$2,500 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Five \$1,000 runner up scholarships**

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- 800-1,000 word essay: Essays should answer the question: Why is free speech important at our nation’s colleges and universities?
  - Essays should explain why violations of student rights are incompatible with higher education, specifically citing the cases featured in two short FIRE documentaries:
    - “Fire in Action: Valdosta State University”
    - “Think what we think...or else: Thought control on the American Campus”
      - Videos are available on FIRES’s website at [www.thefire.org/contests](http://www.thefire.org/contests)

**APPLICATION: Visit [www.thefire.org/contests](http://www.thefire.org/contests)**

**DEADLINE: November 5, 2011**