

STUDENT VOTER ENGAGEMENT COMPETITION SERIES

The J. Glenn Beall Institute for Public Affairs in conjunction with the Office of Civic Engagement is hosting a series of competitions focused around encouraging students and young people to vote and engage in civic projects. Each week this semester, leading up to the election there will be one or more competition topics sponsored by academic departments and groups on campus. The sponsoring group will review the submissions and select first, second, and third place winners. These students will be awarded a stipend from the J. Glenn Beall Institute for Public Affairs of \$250, \$150, and \$100 respectively. Submissions for all competitions should be submitted through [THIS LINK](#). Students are encouraged to be creative and utilize social media and other online platforms when appropriate. There is no limit to submissions, and students are encouraged to take part in multiple competitions. If you have questions about the competitions or submissions, please contact the office of Civic Engagement at civicengagement@frostburg.edu or 301-687-4210.

POLITICAL CARTOON: WHY VOTE?

SPONSORED BY: DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 AT NOON

Create a piece of art, cartoon, illustration, etc. based upon the question: "Why Vote?"

FORMAT: ANY

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE VOTE

SPONSORED BY: AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES & SOCIOLOGY

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 AT NOON

In honor of the recent installation of the Brownsville Monument, the African American Studies program and Sociology department seek creative projects that engage with the idea of African Americans exercising the right to vote. The neighborhood began in 1866, just four years before the 15th Amendment was ratified. We are looking for submissions that reflect the historical conditions faced by African American voters, such as the promise of the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment, limited protections offered to voters during the Reconstruction period, measures taken during the Jim Crow era to prevent African Americans from voting (e.g., literacy tests and poll taxes), the signing of the Voting Rights Act, and continued tactics used to deny or discourage voting by the black constituency (e.g., the requirement of photo identification at polling places, the disproportionate mass incarceration of African Americans resulting in the loss of the right to vote, restricting polling place hours, and placing polling places hard-to-access locations or in highly populated areas that result in long waits). All types of submissions are welcome. For more information, please contact Dr. Amy Branam Armiento at abranam@frostburg.edu.

FORMAT: ANY

"LIVE UNITED" IN FROSTBURG

SPONSORED BY: DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 AT NOON

Poet Amanda Gorman (<http://www.amandascgorman.com/>), age 22, has reached an audience of millions with her new poem "Live United," featured in a new United Way video, which you can see here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ipMH8PpKtY>

In announcing its "Live United" campaign

(<https://www.unitedway.org/the-latest/press/united-way-and-truist-partner-with-first-national-youth-poet-laureate-to-spread-message-of-unity>), the national nonprofit organization said Gorman's poem "drives home a powerful and hopeful message about the opportunity ahead to build a better America, where every person is respected, every voice is heard and every community thrives."

That this dream remains a goal, rather than a reality, has been driven home in 2020 in so many ways: the George Floyd homicide in Minneapolis, for example, and the ongoing pandemic that has killed many tens of thousands of Americans, more than half of them people of color (<https://apnews.com/a8e3244c77bcf31efc826bbbe4a9d19>).

Here at Frostburg State, meanwhile, the new Brownsville/Park Avenue monument on the Upper Quad – which commemorates the Black-owned neighborhood razed in the 20th century to make way for our university – reminds us that even thriving American communities can be erased from the map by injustice, inequality and indifference.

Clearly Frostburg State needs to hear from our own Amanda Gormans, the students who can inspire the Frostburg community as Gorman has inspired millions of Americans this summer.

This assignment asks Frostburg State students to come up with their own, Frostburg-specific messages of unity. These could be in the form of original poems, songs, raps, monologues, visuals, essays or personal testimonies, so long as they strive to emulate the power and concision of Gorman's words. We encourage students to visit the Brownsville/Park Avenue memorial for inspiration and possible themes.

FORMAT: ANY

A PLAN TO INCREASE YOUNG VOTER TURNOUT

SPONSORED BY: THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 AT NOON

Write a plan with details that considers in a scholarly fashion how to motivate young voters to the poll. To be considered for the top prize your plan should provide the most detailed plan for increasing voter turnout in the age group 18 to 24. A submission plan should not exceed 1,200 words or four pages double spaced.

FORMAT: ESSAY

VIDEOS & VOTES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020 AT NOON

We all know the problem: not enough young people vote. According to the U.S. Census, 70 percent of seniors voted in 2016 compared to only 46 percent of 18-29-year olds. The Political Science Department is sponsoring a contest to encourage citizens under the age of 25 to exercise their right to vote. Submit any type of video that will effectively motivate young people to participate in this year's election. **Extra points for humor and creativity.**

FORMAT: VIDEO

ENDORSE A CANDIDATE

SPONSORED BY: OFFICE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020 AT NOON

Who are you voting for and why? Make a video of yourself endorsing a candidate on this year's ballot (local, state, or federal) and why you feel this individual is the best candidate for the position. Be sure to discuss issues that are important to you, and why others should join you in voting for this candidate in November. If posting to social media, use the #BobcatsVote. All submissions must also be submitted via the link provided above to be counted as part of the competition.

FORMAT: VIDEO/SOCIAL MEDIA

YOUR VIEW OF OUR DEMOCRACY

SPONSORED BY: GLOBAL CIVIC LEADERS INITIATIVE

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020 AT NOON

What do you think of our democracy, the state of our union, and the upcoming election? Create a video of yourself or you and your friends, explaining your view(s) on these issues. Check out the video below as an example.

What It's Like To Be a Teenager in Putin's Russia

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/10000006566233/putin-russia-teenagers.html?referringSource=article>
[Share](#)

FORMAT: VIDEO

J. GLENN BEALL JR./GEORGE BEALL & CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

SPONSORED BY: THE BEALL ARCHIVES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020 AT NOON

This question will require you to research an archival collection. You must make an appointment with Special Collections Librarian/Archivist Liza Zakharova in order to research the Beall Papers.

What can you tell us about Senator J. Glenn Beall Jr. (U.S. Senate 1971 - 1977) and his brother, Maryland State Attorney George Beall (1970-1975)? How do their careers embody the concept of civic responsibility?

Essays must be a minimum of two pages. Full citations are required. Special Collections Librarian/Archivist is able to help with citation format required for manuscript papers.

FORMAT: ESSAY

MOTIVATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT SPEECH

SPONSORED BY: COMMUNICATION LEADERSHIP LAB

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020 AT NOON

Undergraduate students should submit a formal original speech they have developed and presented in an organizational or public setting that addresses the topic of democratic engagement related voting, social justice efforts, or related civic engagement activities or topics. Submissions should come in the form of an audio or video file or link and include notes or an outline of the speech with a formal bibliography of cited sources. Speeches can be any length and delivered in a campus or community context. For more information, contact Dr. Elesha L. Ruminski, Professor of Communication Studies and Coordinator of Leadership Studies and the Communication Leadership Lab, at elruminski@frostburg.edu

FORMAT: VIDEO OR AUDIO LINK