2015 Power of the Written Word Scholarship Essay Contest

OVERVIEW

The ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Tau Delta Zeta Chapter are women committed to excellence in all areas of life. We strive tirelessly to exemplify the ideals of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood and Finer Womanhood as held by our illustrious Sorority. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Tau Delta Zeta Chapter created the essay contest to encourage high scholarly achievement through writing and creative expression among college-bound young women. Through the Power of the Written Word we challenge young women to define the noble and unique ideal of Finer Womanhood in relation to the examples of phenomenal women in their own lives and the women they aspire to be.

FINER WOMANHOOD – The Ideal

The ideal of Finer Womanhood originated in the minds of our Illustrious Founders: Arizona Cleaver Stemmons, Viola Tyler Goings, Myrtle Tyler Faithful, Fannie Pettie Watts, and Pearl Anna Neal. They envisioned a quality that held Zetas to the highest standards of womanhood. A Finer Woman is a lady of high moral character, intelligence, resilience, faith and courage. It is the quality that sets Zeta women apart from all other women. Though a precept and personal foundation for the women of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Finer Womanhood is an ideal that all women should strive for. A Finer Woman’s spirit is reflected in a woman’s character, what she says and does, but most importantly in the way she lives daily.

ESSAY TOPICS:

For this year’s Power of the Written Word Essay Contest, applicants must submit a response to the following:

- Aristotle is quoted as saying, “[t]he roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet. Explain what this quote means to you and how it relates to obtaining a college education?

Complete applications can be found at www.zphibtdz.org.

SUBMISSION FORMAT:

Essays must be typed in 12-point, Arial font with 1-inch margins. Please include your name (First, Last) at the top of the page, page numbers in the footer, and word count at the bottom of your essay.

The submission package should include the essay, scholarship application, an official transcript and two letters of recommendation by school administrators.

All essay submissions must be postmarked by Tuesday, February 17, 2015. Mail or email completed essays to:

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Tau Delta Zeta Chapter
Laura Charles-Horne, President
JUDGING & CRITERIA:

The Power of the Written Word Essay Contest Committee will evaluate essay submissions on the basis of creativity, grammar and format. The composition must appropriately execute the aforementioned topic and adhere to the requested word length.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

The top three winners of the Finer Womanhood Essay Contest will receive the following awards:

- 1st Prize: $1000.00
- 2nd Prize: $550.00
- 3rd Prize: $450.00

The awards will be disbursed as a check payment in the winner's name directly to the College or University the student will attend. *Proof of college acceptance must be submitted prior to disbursement of the award.*
Greetings:

I am writing to you on behalf of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Tau Delta Zeta Chapter. As the chairwoman of the *Power of the Written Word Scholarship Essay Contest*, I would like to present a wonderful opportunity for female, graduating seniors who are residents of Prince George’s County seeking to further their education at a four-year college or university.

*Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Tau Delta Zeta Chapter* is a group of dynamic, college-educated, professional women, dedicated to the sorority ideals of *Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood*. Chartered on April 10, 2003 in Laurel, MD, our motto is to “Expand and Serve” in the community in which we live and work. As part of our ongoing commitment to Prince George’s County and our noble ideals, we began our *Power of the Written Word Scholarship Essay Contest* in 2008 to assist college-bound young women pursue their goal of higher education.

This year’s essay topic is:

- Aristotle is quoted as saying, “[t]he roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet. Explain what this quote means to you and how it relates to obtaining a college education?

This scholarship is open to female, graduating seniors who will be entering a four-year college or university in the fall of 2015. Please encourage eligible students to apply for this exciting opportunity! The application deadline is **Tuesday, February 17, 2015**. An overview of the contest is attached. We thank you and look forward to your students’ participation. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at tdzsctscholarship@zphibtdz.org.

Sincerely,

Cristine Cox
Chair, *Power of the Written Word Scholarship Essay Contest*
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Tau Delta Zeta Chapter
PURPOSE AND AVAILABILITY
The ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Tau Delta Zeta Chapter are women committed to excellence in all areas of life. We strive tirelessly to exemplify the ideals of Scholarship, Service, Sisterly Love and Finer Womanhood, as held by our illustrious Sorority. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Tau Delta Zeta Chapter created the essay contest to encourage high scholarly achievement through writing and creative expression among college-bound young women. Through the Power of the Written Word essay contest, we challenge young women to define the noble and unique ideal of Finer Womanhood in relation to the examples of phenomenal women in their own lives and the women they aspire to be.

Finer Womanhood – The Ideal
The ideal of Finer Womanhood originated in the minds of our Illustrious Founders: Arizona Cleaver Stemons, Viola Tyler Goings, Myrtle Tyler Faithful, Fannie Pettie Watts, and Pearl Anna Neal. They envisioned a quality that held Zetas to the highest standards of womanhood. A Finer Woman is a lady of high moral character, intelligence, resilience, faith and courage. It is the quality that sets Zeta women apart from all other women. Though a precept and personal foundation for the women of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Finer Womanhood is an ideal that all women should strive to attain. A Finer Woman’s spirit is reflected in a woman’s character, what she says and does, but most importantly in the way she lives daily.

ELIGIBILITY
An eligible applicant is considered someone who meets the following requirements:
- A high school female senior student
- A resident of Prince George’s County, MD
- Accepted into an accredited four-year college or university
- Has an overall grade point average of 2.5 (C+) or greater.
- Has not received any other scholarship from Tau Delta Zeta Chapter
- Motivated to achieve their educational and career goals

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION
The Power of the Written Word Scholarship does not discriminate in its selection policy on the basis of race, color, creed, disability, national/ethnic origin, religion or sexual orientation.

APPLICATION PROCESS
All information contained in this application will be considered confidential.
1. Obtain an application from high school or a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Tau Delta Zeta Chapter.
2. Provide a comprehensive and complete application packet (typed).
3. Essays should be submitted in typed format and be 300-600 words in length.
4. Obtain and submit an official high school transcript.
5. Obtain two letters of recommendation from high school administrators.
6. Submit three copies (original and two copies) of the completed scholarship application, written statement, letters of recommendation, proof of community service, and one original transcript postmarked by Tuesday, February 17, 2015.
Scholarship Application

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Should there be any questions about completing the application, please contact tdzscholarship@zphibtdz.org.

CHECKLIST
Include in the application packet:
- Application (typed)
- Essay (typed)
- Recent Transcript
- Letters of Recommendation
- Proof of Community Service
- A copy of the candidate’s college/university invoice or schedule (as soon as it is available) showing charges or registered classes
- A copy of the candidate’s college/university financial aid award letter (as soon as it is available)

DEADLINES
The completed scholarship application must be postmarked by **Tuesday, February 17, 2015** (including the most recent transcript and written essay). **Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.** Should there be any questions about completing the application, please contact tdzscholarship@zphibtdz.org.

SUBMISSION DATE
All application materials must be postmarked no later than **Tuesday, February 17, 2015** and returned to the following address:
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
Tau Delta Zeta Chapter
Attn: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 744
Laurel, MD 20725

JUDGING & CRITERIA
The **Power of the Written Word Essay Contest** Committee will evaluate essay submissions on the basis of creativity, grammar and format. The composition must appropriately execute the aforementioned topic and adhere to the requested word length.

NOTIFICATION
Each candidate will be notified in writing of the Scholarship Review Committee’s decision.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- The Scholarship(s) will be awarded in the amounts of $1,000.00, $550.00, and $450.00.
- Funds will be released upon receipt of proof of acceptance/registration into a four-year college or university and most recent transcript. Proof of acceptance/registration must be on official college or university letterhead. Scholarship checks will be forwarded directly to the bursar’s office and made payable to the scholarship recipient and the college.
Scholarship Application

**Part I: Personal Information**

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**Part II: Educational Information**

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<th>Name of High School Counselor</th>
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**Cumulative Grade Point Average***

*High School transcripts and two letters of recommendation must be provided directly from the school in a sealed envelope addressed to the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. – Tau Delta Zeta Chapter.

**Educational Plan**

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Identify each college/university to which the candidate has applied. Please add a separate sheet of paper, if needed.

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**Part III: Additional Information**

Do you know of anyone that is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.? If so, please list their name and relation to you. Please add a separate sheet of paper, if needed.

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<th>Are you a Zeta Archonette (youth auxiliary of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.)? If so, please list your affiliated chapter.</th>
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**Scholarship Application**

**Part IV: Written Essay (300-600 word maximum)**

On a separate sheet of paper, please provide a typewritten statement responding to the following:

- Aristotle is quoted as saying, “[t]he roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet. Explain what this quote means to you and how it relates to obtaining a college education?

Essays must be typed in 12-point, Arial font with 1-inch margins. The candidate should include her name (First, Last) at the top of each page, page numbers in the footer, and word count at the bottom of the essay.

**Part V: Recommendations**

Two letters of recommendation must accompany this application. The letters must be written and submitted by a school administrator (i.e., teacher, school principal, advisor, etc.) who can verify the candidate’s involvement in community service. **Applications submitted without this supporting documentation will not be considered.**

Each letter of recommendation should clearly identify the name of the applicant and address why she deserves our support. All letters should be submitted in a sealed envelope and included with the final application package.

**Part VI: Extracurricular Activities**

The candidate should describe in paragraph or resume format their involvement/participation in any of the following areas:

- High School Clubs/Athletics/Committees
- Community Service Projects/Religious Activities/Volunteer Service
Scholarship Application

PARENT/STUDENT SIGNATURE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I hereby affirm that all the statements presented in this application are true. I have enclosed the necessary high school transcript and other supporting documentation. I am willing to provide additional information should it be required. I agree to abide by all rules and regulations governing the decision and award of the scholarship committee.

I hereby affirm that the information presented in this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I hereby understand that any information submitted falsely will result in forfeiture of the scholarship.

I acknowledge that I meet the eligibility criteria as indicated above: Applicant’s Initials (required)

Applicant’s Signature                      Date

Parent/Guardian Signature                      Date