



A Scholarship Program Rewarding  
Excellent College Application Essays

## Your application essay is done, and the hard part is over, right? Right. But wait...College costs money? Well then, here's a \$5,000 scholarship!

Medium is excited to announce our newest contest, Extra Credit. Submit your exceptional college application essay, and you could win a **\$5,000 scholarship**. And the best part is, you've already done all the work!

### Here's how it works:

- Before **May 19**, go to Medium.com, and post your college application essay to the collection "Extra Credit" at <https://medium.com/extra-credit>. Be sure use Medium's tools and formatting to make your essay look amazing.
- Reach out to your social network (family, friends, Facebook and Twitter) and encourage them to read and recommend your essay on Medium. This is how they vote for you.
- On **May 20** we will announce up to 12 semi-finalists based on the popularity of the submissions.
- On **June 2** three winners will be announced by our panel of professional writers, including best-selling authors Anna Quindlen, Jeff Kinney, Wally Lamb, Kelly Corrigan and Mary Roach.
- All contest details, including posting instructions and official rules, are on Medium.com at [medium.com/extra-credit](https://medium.com/extra-credit).
- All seniors who are legal residents of the U.S. and will be attending college in the fall of 2014 are eligible to enter.

Learn more at [extracredit.medium.com](https://extracredit.medium.com)

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At **Medium**, we believe everyone has a story. Every day, hundreds of new voices, from world-famous authors to first-time contributors, publish their unique stories on Medium, helping create the largest, most diverse collection of writing on the internet. Join us. [medium.com/m/start-writing](https://medium.com/m/start-writing)

### The Judges

**Kelly Corrigan** is the author of three New York Times best-selling memoirs and has made a career out of writing personal narrative. Her most recent book, *Glitter and Glue* (2014), takes on the mother-daughter relationship, wrestling it to the ground in a way the *San Francisco Chronicle* calls "wise and irresistible." Her side project, *Notes & Words*, has raised over \$4 million on behalf of the Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland.

**Jeff Kinney** is *The New York Times* No. 1 best-selling author of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2007) and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2008), a series that has since grown to eight books and a feature movie. In 2007, he founded the online universe Poptropica.com, where he currently works full time as creative and editorial director.

**Wally Lamb** is the best-selling author of several novels, including *She's Come Undone* (1992) and *I Know This Much Is True* (1998). His most recent novel is *We Are Water* (2013).

**Anna Quindlen** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning former *New York Times* columnist and best-selling novelist. Her most recent book is *Still Life with Bread Crumbs* (2013).

**Mary Roach** is the best-selling author of six books, including *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* (2003), *Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex* (2008) and *Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal* (2013).

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Q. What are the eligibility requirements for this contest?

A. Entrants must be legal residents of the United States who will be graduating from high school in the spring of 2014 and entering college in the fall of 2014. Grades, standardized test scores, and financial need are not factors in this contest. Entries must be original, unpublished works. Eligibility will be verified for each of the contest semi-finalists.

### Q. How do I submit my essay?

A. First, if you haven't already done so, join Medium! Go to: <http://www.medium.com/m/start-writing> Then either copy and paste or rewrite your essay as a new story.

Next, submit your story to the Medium collection [Extra Credit](#), using the button in the upper right corner. We cannot accept entries in any other way.

### Q. What if I have problems posting my essay?

A. Don't hesitate to contact us via email at [extracredit@medium.com](mailto:extracredit@medium.com)

### Q. How should I format my entry?

A. Feel free to use all of the editing tools Medium provides to make your essay stand out.

### Q. Should I include photos or other elements that relate to my essay?

A. Medium supports photos as an integral part of a post. Feel free to enhance your entry in this way.

### Q. Can I submit multiple essays?

A. No, you can only submit one essay. Entrants who post multiple essays will be disqualified from the contest.

### Q. Can I choose to remain anonymous?

A. Unfortunately, we cannot consider anonymous entries for this contest.

### Q. Can I submit an essay that was not included on a college application?

A. Yes. However, please include the writing prompt.

### Q. Is there a word limit?

A. We suggest you limit your essay to 1,000 words or less.

### Q. My essay has been previously published. Will you consider it?

A. No. All entries must be unpublished, original pieces of work.

### Q. What is the best way to get my friends and family to read and recommend my essay on Medium?

A. Once your essay is accepted into the Extra Credit contest, share the link to your story with as many people as you can—via email, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. Invite your friends and family to become Medium users. Lots of help is available in the help center.

### Q. When and how are the semi-finalists selected?

A. On May 20, 2014, Medium will select up to TWELVE (12) semi-finalist essays, as determined by statistics of "Read" and "Recommend." You can view your these numbers by navigating to your "Stats" page from the Medium sidebar menu. As such, it is very important that you encourage your network of friends and family to register with Medium, and read and recommend your essay.

### Q. When and how are the contest winners selected?

A. A panel of professional writers, including Anna Quindlen, Jeff Kinney, Wally Lamb, Kelly Corrigan and Mary Roach, will read each of the semifinalist essays and will select 3 winners, based upon the strength and uniqueness of the writing. On June 2, 2014, Medium will announce the three winners of the \$5,000 college scholarships.

### Q. Do I have to be available to attend the award ceremony in San Francisco on June 9th in order to win?

A. No. If you are one of our 3 winners, we hope you will join us at Medium on June 9, 2014 for public recognition. However, you do not need to be present to claim your prize.

### Q. How will the scholarships be distributed and administered?

A. Medium has partnered with ScholarMatch to administer the scholarship funds. Trained counselors from ScholarMatch will help the winners determine the best possible timing and use of the funds.

### Q. Where can I view the official rules?

A. <https://medium.com/extra-credit-info>

### Q. How can I maximize my chances of winning this contest?

A. First, enter a memorable, well-written essay that stands out, comes from the heart, and reflects who you are as a person. Next, use the Medium editing tools to make your story come alive. And finally, activate your network and rally as many people as you can to read and recommend your essay on Medium.com. It's that easy.

Learn more at:

[extracredit.medium.com](http://extracredit.medium.com)