



# Bloomington-Normal Branch of AAUW Sponsors the 4th Annual BN High School Senior Essay Contest for Fall 2008



## About the High School Student Essay Contest

The Bloomington-Normal Branch of AAUW sponsors these annual high school senior student essay contests to encourage our young adults to reflect upon issues of gender equity and diversity and the impact that they have on students' personal, professional, and public lives. Our purpose is to promote awareness by highlighting the mission of AAUW—and especially that of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF):

*The American Association of University Women promotes:  
“Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.”*

## Student Eligibility for the Essay Contest

Bloomington-Normal high school seniors (12<sup>th</sup> grade) are eligible to submit one original 500 word essay addressing the importance of promoting gender equity (women) and/or diversity (multi-cultural appreciation) in one of the following areas' subtopics:

**Civil Rights** (personal security such as affirmative action, hate crimes prevention, reproductive rights)

**Education and/or Title IX** (career and STEM education, No Child Left Behind, single sex education, school vouchers)

**Economic Security** (Workplace Issues such as pay equity, and Family Medical Leave Act, women in non-traditional careers)

For more information on these topics provided by AAUW, visit [http://www.aauw.org/issue\\_advocacy/actionpages/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy/actionpages/index.cfm)

## Contest Rules

These 500 word essays are typically organized in the “5 paragraph theme” mode. We also encourage students and their teachers to pay particular attention to the rules of crediting other's work properly when paraphrasing research materials. No more than 10% of quoted material may be included in a student's essay to encourage the student's own voice to be reflected in their essay. Students' essays must also conform to their respective schools' appropriateness policies for written communication. Finally, a signed Parental Permission form must also accompany each essay to be considered. Typed essays are due to each student's sponsoring Contact Teacher Mentor for this contest by **Monday, October 6, 2008**. The students' Contact Teacher Mentors may fax each student's submission packet to Grace Foote Johns, ISU Physics, (309) 438-5413 by the following day. Essays will be reviewed by representatives of the local Branch of AAUW and others serving on the Essay Contest Review Committee.

## Awards Scholarships

The 1st Place Award is \$125 (sponsored by AAUW-BN). The 2nd Place Award is \$100 (sponsored by the ISU Physics Department's Physics Teacher Education Fund through the generous donation of the Carl J. Wenning Family and their education materials company whiteboardsUSA.com). The 3rd Place Award is \$75 (sponsored by ISU's American Democracy Project). 4<sup>th</sup> – 6th Place Awards (grouped together as Finalists) will receive \$50 each (two awards sponsored by the ISU Physics again, and one award sponsored by ISU's American Democracy Project again). Other essay contestants will be designated Honorable Mention and receive a certificate, but no cash prizes.

## Awards Ceremony

Winners will be announced by November 4, 2008. All Award Winners and Honorable Mention winning essayists, their Teacher Mentors, and their families and friends will be invited to attend the **Awards Ceremony at Barnes and Noble Booksellers** in Bloomington at **7:00pm on Monday, November 10, 2008** to be recognized and receive their certificates and/or award checks. Group pictures of the prize winning student essayists and their Teacher Mentors will be taken for media distribution and a web exhibit.

## Mission of AAUW LAF (<http://www.aauw.org/laf/index.cfm>)

*The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund is the nation's largest legal fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education. Since 1981 the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund has helped students, faculty, staff, and administrators in higher education challenge discriminatory practices such as sexual harassment, denial of tenure or promotion, pay inequity, and inequality in women's athletics programs.*

## About the Bloomington-Normal Branch of AAUW

The Bloomington-Normal Branch was founded in 1913 (District 2). AAUW is a nationwide organization of graduates of regionally accredited United States colleges and universities or foreign institutions recognized by the International Federation of University Women. AAUW concerns itself with enhancing the intellectual and cultural life of the individual; supporting legislation; working to improve education; increasing options and total awareness; securing equal opportunities; and study, then action. In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

**For more information** about this student essay contest and AAUW-BN, visit our Bloomington-Normal Branch AAUW website at <http://www.aauw-il.org/bloom/index.html> or contact Grace Foote Johns, ISU Department of Physics ([johns@phy.ilstu.edu](mailto:johns@phy.ilstu.edu) or 309-438-8758). Grace Foote Johns is also an AAUW-BN Member and created and coordinates this essay contest.



A Legacy of Leadership

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

*4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bloomington-Normal High School Senior AAUW Essay Contest for Fall 2008*

Sponsored by the Bloomington-Normal Branch of AAUW

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 12<sup>th</sup> grade \_\_\_\_\_ (check to verify)

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Contact Teacher (verifying appropriateness): \_\_\_\_\_  
teacher signature (print name)

Short Bio of the Student (interests, after graduation plans, etc.):

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Students should type their own original 500 word essay (double spaced) and attach it to the front of this completed form when they **submit their essay by Monday, October 6, 2008** to their school's coordinating teacher. Students should be sure to type their name and school affiliation on each page of their essay. The students' Contact Teacher may fax each student's submission packet to Grace Foote Johns, ISU Physics, (309) 438-5413 by the following day.

The high school senior essays will be evaluated by the AAUW-BN Essay Contest Review Committee in October with Winners and Honorable Mention recognition publicized in early November. There will be an AAUW **Essay Contest Awards Ceremony** for all Winning and Honorable Mention recognized students and their families at Barnes and Noble Booksellers in Bloomington (on East Empire) at **7:00pm on Monday, November 10, 2008**. Pictures of student essayists will be taken for dissemination to local media and for an AAUW-BN web exhibit.

**All students participating in this AAUW Essay Contest project and display must have prior parent/guardian permission as noted by the parental name printed with their signature affixed and dated below:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
parent/guardian signature (print name)

For the media release, please print the parent/guardian name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**For questions or additional information, please contact:**

Grace Foote Johns, Asst. to the Chairperson; Illinois State University, Department of Physics (4560), Normal, IL 61790-4560; (309) 435-8758 or [johns@phy.ilstu.edu](mailto:johns@phy.ilstu.edu)

**Thank you for participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual AAUW-BN Essay Contest for Bloomington-Normal High School Seniors in Fall 2008.**

