The Knight Award for Writing Exercises recognizes excellence in short exercises and/or handouts designed to improve student writing. Appropriate topics may be drawn from the whole range of writing issues, large scale to small scale, such as development of theses, use of secondary sources, organization of evidence, awareness of audience, attention to sentence patterns (e.g., passive/active voice; coordination/subordination), attention to diction, uses of punctuation, attention to mechanics (e.g., manuscript formats, apostrophes). Exercises and handouts may be developed for use in or out of class.

Submissions should comprise three parts: (1) A copy of the handouts or instructions that go to students. (2) An explanation of the exercise/handout and of the principles behind it, addressed to future instructors who may use the material. (3) If possible, an example of a student response.

Submissions may range in length from one to four or five pages.

Winning entries will be deposited in a web accessible archive and made available to other instructors under a creative commons attribution, non-commercial license. (See creativecommons.org for more information about cc licensing. No undergraduate student’s writing will ever be published in this archive.)

To facilitate future searching of the Institute’s archive, we ask that you provide a brief descriptive abstract (about 75 words) of your document, and a short list of appropriate keywords that might not appear in the text. Examples might include terms like “rhetorical situation,” “style,” “citation,” etc. Any borrowings such as quotations from course texts or handbooks must be cited properly in the document itself.

The two winning entries will receive $350; second place winners (if any) will receive $125.

Submissions are due in 101 McGraw Hall by Thursday, December 14. No exceptions can be made.

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Instructor’s name ____________________________

Department ___________Course # and title________________________

Local address________________________________________

Local telephone________________________ Email (Cornell)________________________

Home address (street, city, state, zip) __________________________________

Home telephone __________________________ Student ID number __________________________

Should I win a prize, I give the John S. Knight Institute permission to publish, quote from, and/or distribute copies of the writing exercises, and to distribute publicity to newspapers and other publications, local and/or national, about my winning the prize. I also grant the Knight Institute permission to deposit the writing exercises in a web accessible archive and make them available under a creative commons attribution, non-commercial license. I am prepared to send electronic versions of my text to Donna Newton (dlo1@cornell.edu) in the Knight Institute. I understand that I will receive the award for my prize-winning essay upon submission of the electronic text.

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Title of Writing Exercises

Instructor’s signature________________________________________ Date __________________________