

Fall 2017 Spencer Prize

This prize will be awarded jointly to a graduate student instructor of a First-Year Writing Seminar and to the student for work done as a normal part of the course that led to the student's finished essay. The teacher may, for example, have designed a sequence of readings accompanied by journal entries, analyses of texts, drafts, and revisions, culminating in a student essay. The essay itself may well be one that is significant not because it is "perfect" but because it shows that the student improved significantly in understanding of the discipline and in ability to write within that discipline. The award is intended to recognize productive collaboration between an instructor and a student. Such collaboration is admittedly elusive and difficult to document; it is most likely to be located in written feedback and brought to light in an accompanying rationale (see below).

Publication of the essay in *Discoveries* is possible; essays without accurate documentation might not be so considered.

Only one entry can be submitted from each class.

To enter this contest, the instructor and student should organize and submit the following materials with the application form below:

- a) An outline or table of contents which will guide readers through the packet of materials.
- b) Rationales written by both the student and by the instructor explaining the methods, goals, and achievements represented in the sequence of work. Each rationale should address the evidence of productive collaboration, including conferences as well as written work or feedback.
- c) The writing assignments and a description of the reading assignments that led to the final polished piece.
- d) The student's work that was submitted at each step of this process—including, of course, the final essay, which itself must include a **complete and accurate list of sources, in an accepted documentation format.**

These materials may be used by the Knight Institute Staff as part of their faculty development programs, including the training courses for Writing in the Majors TAs and graduate instructors of First Year Writing Seminars.

The amount of the prize will be \$350 to the graduate student instructor and \$350 to his/her student (honorable mentions, if any, will receive \$125 each).

Submissions are due in 101 McGraw Hall by Thursday, December 14. No exceptions can be made.
Undergraduate writers may not submit the same essay for more than one prize.

Fall 2017 Spencer Prize Application

~Please Print Clearly. Do **not** staple. Use paper clips only.~

Instructor's name _____ Instr e-mail _____

Department _____ Course # and title _____

Student's name _____ College _____

Local address _____ Class of _____

Local telephone _____ Email (Cornell) _____

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

Home telephone _____ Student ID number _____

I understand that I may submit this essay for only one prize for the current semester. Should I win a prize, I give the John S. Knight Institute permission to publish, quote from, and/or distribute copies of the materials submitted, and to distribute publicity to newspapers and other publications, local and/or national, about my winning the prize. I am prepared to send electronic versions of my text (not a PDF, but an editable text document) 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.

Title of Essay

Student's signature _____ Date _____

Instructor's signature _____ Date _____