

“A Woman of Significance to Me”

2017 Women’s History Month Eighth Grade Essay Contest

Sponsored by:

**The American Association of University Women of Rochester
and
The Rochester Hills Library
and
The Auburn Hills Library**

In celebration of Women’s History Month, eighth grade students of the Rochester and Avondale School districts, are invited to submit an entry based on the theme: *A Woman of Significance to Me.*

The student entering the contest must answer the question: *What personal goals am I able to pursue because of the influence of a woman, either past or present?*

The person chosen as a subject of the essay could be a family member, a teacher, someone in the community, or a historical figure who has opened your mind to new ideas about yourself and your contributions to this world. Particular attention will be paid to the student’s expression of these new ideas.

Contest Outline:

- All essay contestants must be eighth grade students in the Rochester or Avondale School districts
- Essays must be 400 words or less in length
- Essays must be submitted on or before April 13, 2017
- Refer to Contest Rules

Prizes:

The top three winners will be awarded cash prizes

- First Place - \$100.00
- Second Place - \$75.00
- Third Place - \$50.00

For Information and Application Forms:

**AAUW of Rochester, 1375 Hathaway Rising,, Rochester Hills, MI 48306
(248) 651-0436**

<http://rochester-mi.aauw.net/contest/>

2017 Women's History Month Eighth Grade Essay Contest Rules

This contest encourages you to exhibit your writing talents by composing an essay about a woman who is, or has been, an inspirational force in your life or the lives of others.

The student entering the contest **must** answer the question: **"What personal goals am I able to pursue because of the influence of a woman, either present or past?"**

The person chosen as the subject of the essay could be a family member, a teacher, someone in the community, or a historical figure who has opened your mind to new ideas about yourself and your contributions to this world. **Particular attention will be paid to the student's expression of these new ideas.**

Rules of the Contest:

1. Essays must be double-spaced, and either typed or neatly handwritten on 8-1/2" x 11" white paper.
2. Essays must be no longer than 400 words.
3. Essays must include the theme of the essay contest by recognizing a woman (historical or contemporary) who meets the criteria indicated above.
4. Each student may submit only one essay regarding one woman.
5. Essays must be the original work of the student.
6. Do not include photos or graphics as part of the essay submission.
7. The contest is open to all eighth grade students in the Rochester and Avondale School districts.
8. The entry form must be **completed fully and signed** by **BOTH** the student and parent/guardian.
9. The entry form and essay must be **postmarked no later than April 11, 2017**
10. Essays should have one-inch margins on both sides, as well as on the top and bottom of the page.
11. Please **DO NOT** sign your name anywhere on the essay. **Names should be on the entry form only.**
12. The entry form should be **STAPLED to the FRONT of the essay.**
13. Please **DO NOT** place the essay in a folder of any type.
14. Please number the pages if there is more than one page.

Judging/Prizes

Essays will be judged in four categories:

1. **Originality:** How well you expressed your own view, in your own words, in your own way.
2. **Theme Expression:** How well you identified the influence of the woman you are recognizing.
3. **Clarity:** How clearly and concisely the essay was written.
4. **Mechanics:** How well you used correct punctuation, grammar and spelling.

The top three winners will be awarded cash prizes in the amounts of \$100.00, \$75.00, and \$50.00.

All entry forms and essays must be submitted to the following address and **postmarked no later than April 11, 2017.**

**Eighth Grade Women's History Month Essay Contest
1375 Hathaway Rising
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48306**