

YOUR LOCAL GROUP & THE MENSA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

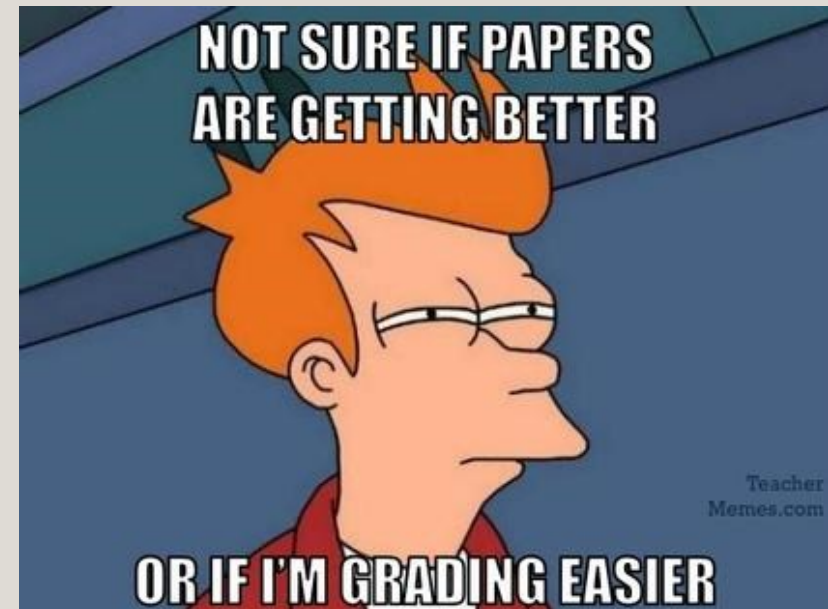
AKA “HOW TO GIVE MONEY AWAY MORE EFFECTIVELY”

THE MENSA FOUNDATION'S COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- The [U.S. scholarship program](#) covers all of the country and awards more than \$130,000 every year. The Foundation's U.S. scholarship program relies on approximately 450 volunteers around the country with support from the Foundation's office staff.
- U.S. applicants need not be Mensa members. However, Mensa members may apply for both these scholarship programs and the additional [Mensa Member Award Program](#).
- The Foundation's college scholarship program bases its awards totally on essays written by the applicants. Consideration is not given to grades, academic program or financial need.
- **The scholarship application process opens Sept. 15 and closes Jan. 15.**
- **If your local group doesn't participate, your local residents miss out on a \$600 Cooper/Mossip scholarship**

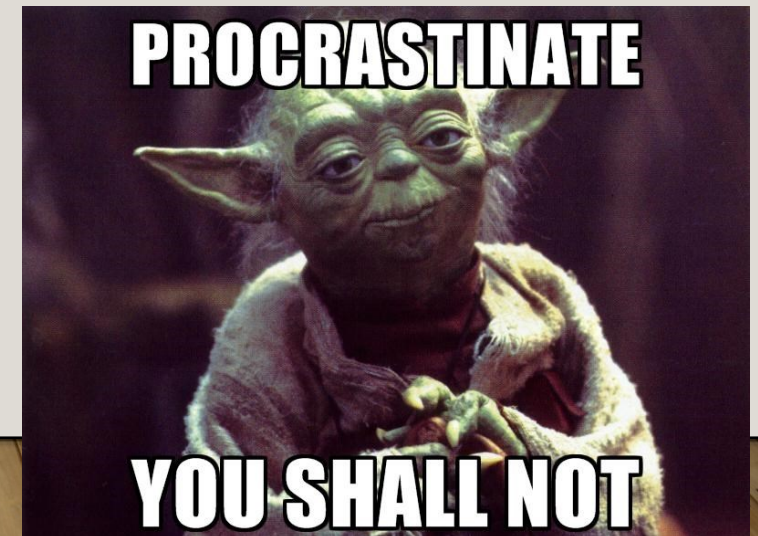
LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP JUDGING

- Judging begins as soon as the application process closes Jan 15 each year.
 - After the Local scores are submitted around Feb 15, the judging moves to Regional, and then National, before the awards are announced in June.



TIMELINE

- Sept 15-Jan 15: Applications are open and essays submitted by students
- Jan 15-Feb 15: Local groups judge essays and submit scores
- Feb 16-Mar 21: Regional groups judge the Local winning essays and submit scores
- Mar 22-May-ish: National judges judge the winning Regional essays to determine the National winners
- June: Winners are announced



WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

1. (Steering Committee to Appoint a Local Scholarship Chair and Report to National Office by August 1)
2. Starting Sept 15, promote the Mensa Foundation Scholarship program so students submit essays
3. In December, recruit your judges
4. In January, get your scoring sheets and tally sheets ready. Send out a welcome email to your judges with the basics on how the scholarship program works, what the timeline is, etc.
5. On Jan 16, send them the essays, scoring sheet, and instructions on scoring. Remind them of when you need their scoring sheets back.
6. Feb 10-14, tally the scores and submit them on the website.
7. Feb 15 – you're done!

PROMOTION

MWW doesn't actively promote for students to submit applications, but if we did...

- Engage the local group and see who works as an educator, and see if they can get something to their students or guidance counselor.
- Post posters in local libraries and bookstores, or on college campuses (You can download and print posters made by the Mensa Foundation easily!)
- Put a notice in your local newsletter, local website Facebook, Twitter, and all of your channels. Everyone knows a college-bound student!

SOCIAL MEDIA

For social media, make the post shareable!! That means it can't be marked private in your account, but more importantly, what you write is easy for other people to re-post or forward.

Shareable example:



“The Mensa Foundation is accepting applications for scholarships now! They need to be in by Jan 15. You don't need to be a member to apply, and we give out dozens of scholarships, lots of them are local! Share this with your friends – everyone knows a student! <http://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/scholarship-application/>”



Not Shareable / Bad example:

“Hi friends, I run this scholarship thing for our local Mensa group, and I don't know how to get people to apply to submit an essay to win a scholarship. Can you please tell people to contact me if they're interested?”

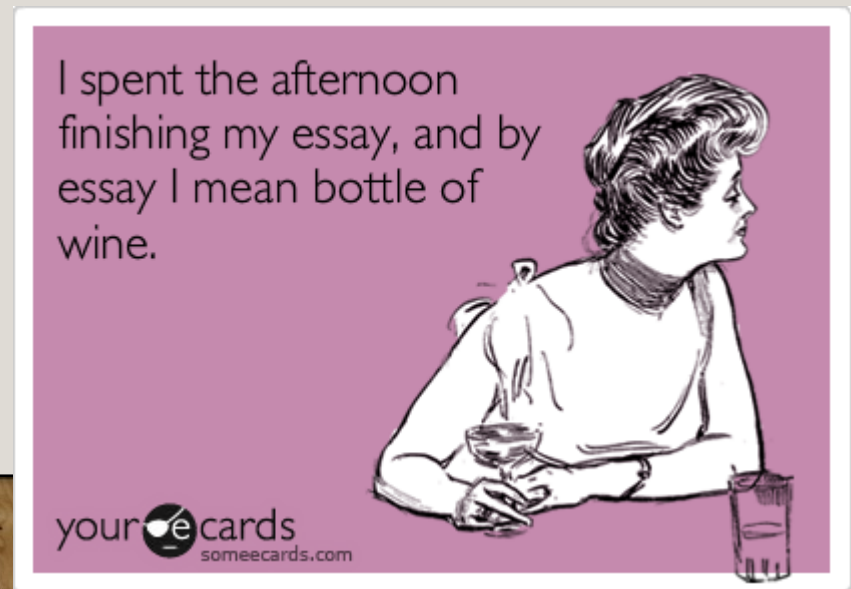
LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP JUDGES

- How many judges you need depends on your group size and how many essays you get.
 - Mensa of Western Washington typically gets about 100 essays per year, and we usually have about 10 judges (multiple rounds of judging/elimination).
 - Knowing you'll need to start judging in Jan, we typically recruit judges in Dec.
 - Why? Any earlier, and people are thrown off by the holidays and won't commit.
 - Also, our group is active on Facebook, and I can recruit judges very quickly from that. I'll get replies within the day!
 - Most of your judges need to be Mensans, but you can have some Friendsans judge too.
 - Always have a few more than you think you need – people are flakes and drop out in the middle of judging sometimes!

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP JUDGES

An example of what I'll post on Facebook to recruit:

- “Hey members! I’m looking for judges to read essays for this year’s Scholarships. This is a perfect volunteer opportunity, since it’s a one month commitment only (Jan 15-Feb 15)! Great to get your feet wet if you’re new to the group. Also, it’s great for people in the far reaches of Western Washington, people with weird work schedules, new parents, etc. since you never need to meet up in person! You get to read and score essays in the comfort of your home. If you can read about 100 1-page essays, and put the scores in an Excel doc and email it to me – you can do this!”



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP JUDGES

Get too many volunteer judges?

- Jen Carter centrally collects "extra" judges and deploys them skillfully when needed. Send any such judge's email address and Region number to her at:
volunteerjudges@mensafoundation.org
- Give some to your Regional Scholarship Chair! They're always looking for people.
 - If someone is a local judge, they can't be a regional judge too. It's one or the other.
- Also, on the Scholarship Chair email list, smaller groups are often looking for judges, and you can offer people to help them judge for their local group, even if they don't actually live in that area.

SO WHAT HAPPENS ON JAN 16?

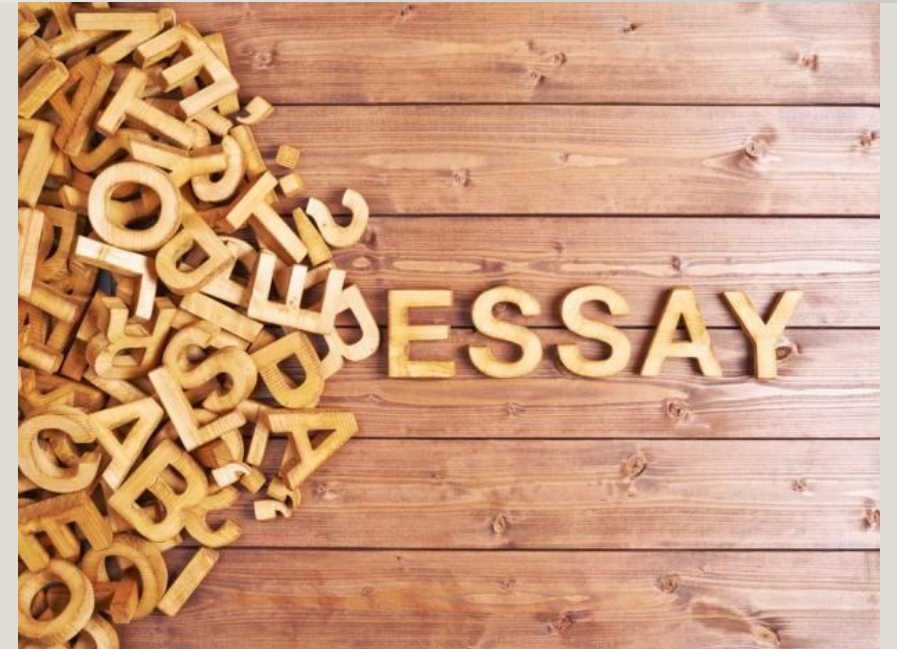
- The Scholarship Chair downloads all of the essays on the website. Download the essays with the names and save them for yourself as chair. Download a second set of them without the names and send those to your judges.
 - You will also need to download the scoring sheet (an excel doc) to send to the judges, and the scoring instructions.
 - If you're really nice like me, add the numbers of the essays on the scoring sheet before you send to the judges. It reduces the chance of them missing an essay.
 - Download the Tally sheet where you collect all the scores and tally them to get the combined scores.
- ...The Mensa website makes this REALLY easy.

TIMELINES FOR JUDGING

- All the scores need to be submitted by Feb 15, so depending on how many essays you get, you need to make a timeline for your month.
- Options:
 1. If you don't have a lot, tell the judges to give you their scores by Feb 10, so you have 5 days to tally them and submit them on the website.
 2. If you have a lot of essays, you can divide them into rounds:
 - Round 1 (Jan 16 - Jan 24): Have a couple judges do an Elimination Round, and reduce the essays that the rest of the judges will read.
 - Round 2 (Jan 25 – Feb 3). Send the reduced number of essays to the judges to score.
 - Then submit the scores for those on the website.

TIMELINES FOR JUDGING

- You may also want to build in time in case judges don't submit scores, and try to get everything in early:
- In our local group, a few years ago, we had 50% of our judges disappear in the middle of scoring, and never send me scores or reply to my emails. Thankfully, I built in a week at the end of my timeline, so I quickly ran around and asked for favors from active Mensans, who judged essays in one day!



WINNERS!

In June, you'll get an announcement of the winners.

We make a post in our local newsletter congratulating the winners, and posting about the Scholarships.

This:

1. Shows our local members what the Mensa Foundation is doing
2. Reminds people who are students or know students to apply next year
3. Subtly reminds people they can create a scholarship in their name, as a memorial, etc.
4. Is a nice way of publically congratulating the winners. (You can also send a copy of the newsletter to the winners!)



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

- Michelle Rakshys, Mensa of Western Washington, Local Scholarship Chair (Preparer) **BIG THANKS TO MICHELLE!**
scholarships@mensaww.org
- Jill Beckham, Mensa Foundation, Foundation Director (Presenter)
director@mensafoundation.org
- Mark Glancey, Mensa of Western Washington, President (LocSec), National Assistant Scholarship Chair – Mensa Member (2017), Region 8 Scholarship Chair (2016) (Presenter)
president@mensaww.org