



## Lincoln Club 2021 Essay Contest

The Lincoln Club of Delaware, in cooperation with WSFS Bank, is pleased to announce its 2020-21 essay contest for Delaware high school students (Grades 9 through 12). Two winners will be selected. The topic for this year's essay is a quote from Abraham Lincoln's first Inaugural Address, delivered on March 4, 1861:

We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when once again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

Contestants will write an essay of 800 to 1000 words explaining what this statement means, why you agree or disagree with it, and whether it remains relevant today.

The winners of the essay contest will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward his or her post-secondary education. When the winners accept an offer of admission to an institution of higher education, the awards will be paid to the financial aid office of the Institution.

In addition, the winners will be recognized at the Lincoln Club's annual dinner and may bring two guests. The students and guests will meet a top Lincoln scholar, hear his or her presentation, and have an opportunity to network with the members of the Lincoln Club, including distinguished leaders in Delaware's business, judicial, legal, educational, and political communities.

This year's dinner is tentatively scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on April 15, 2021, at the Greenville Country Club. In the event of cancellation due to Covid concerns, it will be rescheduled for the winter of 2022. Even if the formal presentation of the award is delayed until 2022, the award itself will be immediately available to this year's winners as soon as they are accepted to an institution of higher education.

The essays must be accompanied by a cover sheet giving the student's name, age, grade, school, address, telephone number, and email address. All materials must be in 12-point font. The cover sheet and the title of the essay will not be counted in the 800-1000 words.

Contest entries, consisting of the cover sheet and essay, should be sent as an email attachment to the Lincoln Club's administrative assistant, Karren Helsel-Spry, at [Karren@udel.edu](mailto:Karren@udel.edu). The deadline for submission is 5:00 p.m. on Friday February 12, 2021 (Lincoln's birthday).

A subcommittee of the Lincoln Club Board will select the winning entries based on relevance to the topic, originality, substance, and style. Prior winners are not eligible to participate. The winners will be notified on or before March 12, 2021, and their names and essays will be featured on the Lincoln Club website and Facebook page.

The Lincoln Club preserves the right to publish the winning essay without further compensation to the author.