

***The Fountainhead* Essay Contest**

For 11th and 12th Graders

Entry Deadline: April 26, 2010

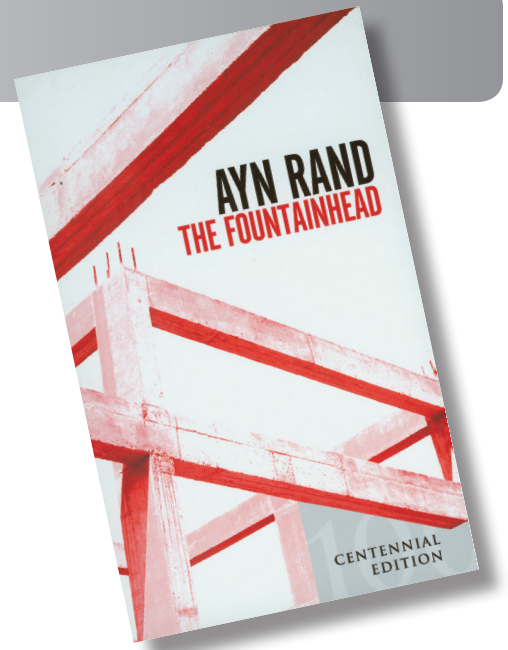
FIRST PRIZE: \$10,000

5 SECOND PRIZES: \$2,000

10 THIRD PRIZES: \$1,000

45 FINALISTS: \$100

175 SEMIFINALISTS: \$50



***The Fountainhead*—Topics**

Select ONE of the following three topics:

1. Howard Roark refuses a major contract when he most needs it, claiming that his action was “the most selfish thing you’ve ever seen a man do.” Why does he call his action “selfish”? And why do other people call it “selfless”?
2. Gail Wynand is a brilliant individual who rose out of the slums by means of his own talent and effort. But despite his reverence for man’s noblest achievements, his newspaper, *The Banner*, presents the most lurid and loathsome values. Why does Wynand pander in this manner? And why doesn’t Howard Roark?
3. Choose the scene in *The Fountainhead* that is most meaningful to you. Analyze that scene in terms of the wider themes in the book.

***The Fountainhead*—Judging**

Essays will be judged on both style and content. Judges will look for writing that is clear, articulate and logically organized. Winning essays must demonstrate an outstanding grasp of the philosophic meaning of *The Fountainhead*.

Essay submissions are evaluated in a fair and unbiased multi-round judging

process. To ensure the anonymity of our participants, cover sheets and identifying information are removed after the first round. Winners’ names remain unknown to judges until after the essays have been ranked and the contest results finalized. ARI checks essays with Ithenticate plagiarism detection software.

***The Fountainhead*—Rules**

- No application is required.
- Entrant must be in the 11th or 12th grade.
- Contest is open to students worldwide.
- Essay must be no fewer than 800 and no more than 1,600 words in length and double-spaced. One entry per student, please.
- Essay must be submitted online or postmarked by April 25, 2010, no later than 11:59 PM, Pacific time.
- Essay must be solely the work of the entrant. Plagiarism will result in disqualification.
- Decisions of the judges are final.
- Employees of the Ayn Rand Institute, its board of directors and their immediate family members are not eligible for this contest. Past first-place winners are not eligible for this contest.
- All entries become the property of the Ayn Rand Institute and will not be returned.
- Winners, finalists, semifinalists and all other participants will be notified via e-mail and/or by mail by July 27, 2010.

To submit your essay online, go to www.aynrand.org/contests.