

## ATLAS SHRUGGED *essay contest*

For 12th Graders, College Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Essay must be between 800 and 1,600 words in length.

Select **ONE** of the following three topics:

1. *Atlas Shrugged* depicts a society of diminishing economic freedom. What is the philosophical motivation behind these controls and what is the practical result? What is hero John Galt's answer, both practically and philosophically? Use the events in the novel to support your answer. In your answer, consider what Rand says in the lecture "Faith and Force."\*
2. Dagny says to Rearden: "If I'm asked to name my proudest attainment, I will say: I have slept with Hank Rearden. I had earned it." Why is she so proud, and what does she mean by having earned it? How and why does Rearden's attitude differ from hers? How do their attitudes toward sex relate to the wider themes of the novel? Consider also what Rand has to say in her essay "Of Living Death."\*
3. *Atlas Shrugged* is a story that portrays a dramatic conflict of characters and their values. What is the most significant conflict in the story? Is it the conflict between the creators and the looters? Is it the conflicts the creators experience in their own souls? Is it something else? Explain your answer.

\* Speeches and essays published at [AynRand.org/contests](http://AynRand.org/contests)

Visit [aynrand.org/students/contests](http://aynrand.org/students/contests) for information about contest deadlines and prize support.

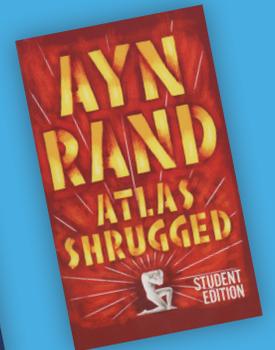
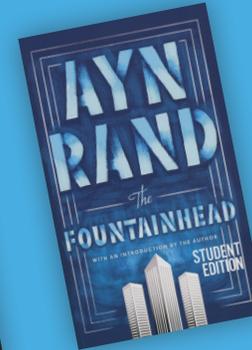
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**AYN RAND'S NOVELS**

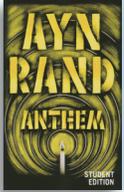


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## FOR STUDENTS: ESSAY CONTESTS ON AYN RAND'S NOVELS



### ANTHEM *essay contest*

For 8th, 9th and 10th Graders

Essay must be between 600 and 1,200 words in length.

Select ONE of the following three topics:

1. Near the end of the story, Prometheus writes that “the day will come when I shall . . . raze the cities of the enslaved” and that “the Councils of my brothers will be impotent against me.” Why do you think Prometheus foresees a struggle with his collectivist world? Why does he think he will prevail? For your essay, consider also what Rand writes in this excerpt from her novel *The Fountainhead*, titled “The Soul of an Individualist.”\*
2. The old locks and lack of guards in the Palace of Corrective Detention indicate that prisoners never try to escape. Why do you think they do not? In your essay, consider the following excerpt from Ayn Rand’s novel *The Fountainhead*, titled “The Soul of a Collectivist.”\*
3. Does the World Council of Scholars reject Equality only because he is different or for some additional reason? What is it about Equality, specifically, that they are so opposed to, and what do you think motivates their opposition toward him? Explain your answer.

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### *How to Enter*

Read the novel, write an essay on your topic of choice, and submit your entry online or by mail.

For more information, please visit [AynRand.org/contests](http://AynRand.org/contests).

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 ESSAY SUBMISSIONS  
TO DATE

### THE FOUNTAINHEAD *essay contest*

For 11th and 12th Graders

Essay must be between 800 and 1,600 words in length.

Select ONE of the following three topics:

1. In his climatic courtroom speech, Howard Roark states: “The creator’s concern is the conquest of nature. The parasite’s concern is the conquest of men.” Explain how this quote relates to the theme as dramatized through the characters of Howard Roark, Peter Keating and Ellsworth Toohey.
2. When Toohey first meets his niece Catherine, he is described as seeing a particular look on her face. What is the significance of his reaction to her look? How does his treatment of Catherine through the rest of the novel encapsulate his overall strategy for dealing with the world? For your essay, consider also what Rand says in the essay “Through Your Most Grievous Fault.”\*
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. In your essay, consider also what Rand has to say about what art, including literature, can do for us, in this excerpt from “The Goal of My Writing.”\*

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