ATLAS SHRUGGED essay contest
For 12th Graders, College Undergraduate and Graduate Students • Entry Deadline: May 15, 2018
Essay must be between 800 and 1,600 words in length.

ATLAS SHRUGGED—TOPICS
Select ONE of the following three topics:

1. An important early event in the novel is the destruction of the Phoenix-Durango. What factors make its destruction possible? How does this issue relate to the meaning and theme of Atlas Shrugged? In your answer, consider what Rand has to say in her 1962 essay “The Pull Peddlers.”

2. Capitalism’s defenders usually appeal to the “public good” as the moral justification of capitalism. Contrast this approach to defending capitalism with Ayn Rand’s approach in Atlas Shrugged. In your answer, consider what Rand has to say in her 1965 essay “What Is Capitalism?”

3. Francisco d’Anconia and his teacher, Hugh Akston, advise more than once: “Check your premises” because contradictions do not exist. Identify at least two major apparent contradictions that the heroes of Atlas Shrugged encounter, and explain, with reference to the novel, what premises they need to check and correct in order for them to understand that these “contradictions” do not exist.

* Speeches and essays published at AynRand.org/contests

FREE GIFTS FOR TEACHERS FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR ESSAY CONTESTS
As a thank-you for participating in our contests, the following gifts will be awarded when you submit at least:

10 ESSAYS: $10 gift card to Amazon
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50 ESSAYS: $50 gift card to Amazon
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Email essays@AynRand.org for details.

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FOR YOUR STUDENTS: ESSAY CONTESTS ON AYN RAND’S NOVELS

ANTHEM essay contest
For 8th, 9th and 10th Graders • Entry Deadline: May 1, 2018
Essay must be between 600 and 1,200 words in length.

ANTHEM—TOPICS
Select ONE of the following three topics:
1. Anthem depicts a world of the future, a collectivist dictatorship in which even the word “I” has vanished. Discuss the hero’s struggle to free himself from collectivism. What makes his victory possible? In your essay, consider what Ayn Rand has to say in “The Soul of an Individualist” excerpt from her novel The Fountainhead.*
2. In Anthem, the City has numerous rules and controls. Why do these exist? What is their purpose? Do you think the society that Equality envisions creating at the end of the story would include any of these rules and controls? Explain why or why not.
3. Contrast Equality’s view of morality at the end of the novel to the morality exemplified by his society’s institutions, practices and officials. In your essay, consider what Ayn Rand has to say in the following set of excerpts from her writings: campus.AynRand.org/lexicon/selfishness.
* Speeches and essays published at AynRand.org/contests

THE FOUNTAINHEAD essay contest
For 11th and 12th Graders • Entry Deadline: May 15, 2018
Essay must be between 800 and 1,600 words in length.

THE FOUNTAINHEAD—TOPICS
Select ONE of the following three topics:
1. How do Keating’s and Roark’s paths to success differ? Which one in the end is the real success? In your essay, consider what Ayn Rand has to say in the following set of excerpts from her writings: campus.AynRand.org/lexicon/independence.
2. Choose the scene in The Fountainhead that is most meaningful to you. Analyze that scene in terms of the wider themes in the book.
3. The theme of The Fountainhead, said Ayn Rand, is “individualism versus collectivism, not in politics, but in man’s soul.” How do the motives and actions of Roark, Keating and Toohey dramatize this theme? In your essay, consider what Ayn Rand has to say in the following set of excerpts from her writings: campus.AynRand.org/lexicon/selfishness.

FREE BOOKS TO TEACHERS PROGRAM
The Free Books to Teachers program is one of the Ayn Rand Institute’s most popular initiatives. We supply free classroom sets and review copies for teachers interested in bringing Ayn Rand’s novels to their classrooms. To date, over 3.8 million copies have been distributed to nearly 50,000 participating teachers. In addition, the Institute offers supplementary teaching materials to aid in planning lessons and encouraging discussion. If you are a teacher and you would like to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to teach Ayn Rand’s novels in your classroom, you can request your free books by going to freebooks.AynRandeducation.org.

How to Enter
To read contest rules and guidelines and to find out how to submit your students’ essays, visit AynRand.org/contests.
You can earn Amazon gift cards and more by having your students participate in an essay contest. To ensure you receive credit for your students’ submissions, please ask your students to look up and enter your school information when they submit their essays online at AynRand.org/students/essay-contests.

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