As a student in a Parkland Humanities Department course (CCS, ENG, ESL, FRE, GER, HUM, JPN, LAS, LIT, PHI, REL, SPA), you are invited to submit a quality essay to the

Diana P. McDonald Award for Outstanding Achievement in Creative Nonfiction

The winning essay will have clear organization and wording; unique perspective, as opposed to superficial or predictable arguments; grammatical and mechanical correctness. The essay can (but does not need to) include quoted sources.

If you are submitting an essay that you wrote for a class, we encourage you to revise it. We seek an essay that connects your personal experiences, insights, and observations to larger, ongoing conversations in our world—about politics, philosophy, science, media, justice, family, race, happiness, the environment, or whatever else interests you. Feel free to discuss your essay with an instructor, as well as to take advantage of Parkland’s Writing Lab for revision suggestions.

Please submit your essay by 5p.m. Friday, December 9, in two ways: a hard copy with a completed application form (ask your instructor for it or write to smendelowitz@parkland.edu) to Seth Mendelowitz in the Department of Fine and Applied Arts & Humanities (C 120); AND an electronic copy sent to smendelowitz@parkland.edu (for the electronic copy, please remove any identifying information—including your name or an instructor’s name [if you initially wrote it for a class]; if you have your name in a header on each page, please remove that from the electronic copy, as well).

This essay contest is funded by Diana McDonald, a retired Parkland composition instructor. The judges (Humanities Dept. faculty) reserve the right to make no award if none of the essays meet the criteria.