

COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

Fonthill 2010 Writing Scholarship

Deadline: February 12, 2010

To apply:

- Complete your application for admission to the College of Mount Saint Vincent
- Fill out the Fonthill Scholarship application and find a sponsor, preferably an English teacher, to sign the form and certify that the submitted work is your own.
- Attach two 10-page writing samples. Your sample may include essays, research reports, or creative pieces, and may have been previously submitted for publication. Type all work and include your name, entry date, and the original date of submission, if applicable.
- Write a 1,000 to 1,500 word autobiographical sketch of yourself as a writer. Here, you should explain your interest in writing, describe factors that have influenced your development as a writer, and discuss your reasoning for selecting your two writing samples.

FOUR QUICK TIPS TO BOOST YOUR AWARD CHANCES

Consider your audience

Our review committee is comprised of professionals who value purposeful, disciplined writing. A piece that comes from a truly personal place, in which you write about relationships, love, and loss, can be particularly effective. However, take care to avoid over-sentimentality. Additionally, poems that rhyme, but contain little originality of language or freshness of image, have generally been unsuccessful in the past. What is meaningful to you may not automatically resonate in the same way for your readers – put yourself in their shoes as you re-read your work.

Give the committee enough to get a real sense of your ability

The review committee will be looking for originality and unity of concept, harmony of style and purpose, and an individual and interesting voice. The judges are writers of diverse backgrounds so there is no built-in-bias towards one form of writing over another. Short stories, one-act plays, poetry, prose essays, or research-based writing are equally acceptable, as is a section from a longer work, as long as you provide additional information about the overall intention of the piece. A group of related short poems may be considered as a single sample, and may give a fuller picture of your talents. While the length requirements and restrictions must be followed, quality, not quantity, is of utmost importance.

Proofread!

Take pride in the appearance of our entry. All materials must be typed neatly and identified clearly. If a writing sample has been previously submitted as a class assignment, run off a clean copy. Sloppiness alienates audiences, especially the professional editors and writers who will be reading your work!

Don't be late!

All materials must be received by the Office of Admission by February 5, 2010.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much is the award?

The winner will receive a full tuition scholarship, minus all student fees and the enrollment and housing deposits.

Am I eligible?

Yes, if you are a high school student or graduate who plans to apply to the College of Mount Saint Vincent who meets the admission standards and sees writing as important to your future, regardless of your major or career plans.

What are my chances?

If you meet the College of Mount Saint Vincent admissions standards and have been told that you have some ability as a writer, go ahead and apply! We're not looking for the student with the highest grades, or for one who wants to major in Communication or English. Rather, we're after the student with the most potential as a writer, whether he or she wants to be an accountant, chemist, corporate executive, or journalist.