

\$500 Writer's Challenge

2025-26 Diana P. McDonald Award for Outstanding
Achievement in Creative Nonfiction Submission Form

As a student in a Parkland Humanities Department course, you are invited to submit a quality essay to the *Diana P. McDonald Award for Outstanding Achievement in Writing*.

This is for a cash award!

Whether you submit a personal essay, source-based essay, or full-length research paper or report, the judges want to see clear organization and wording; a sense of your unique perspective, as opposed to superficial or predictable arguments; grammatical and mechanical correctness.

Even if your essay received an A from your instructor, we encourage you to review and revise it based on your instructor's feedback. Feel free to discuss your essay further with your instructor, as well as to take advantage of Parkland's Writing Lab for revision suggestions. You are also welcome to submit an original essay that was not written specifically for a class.

In order to have your essay considered for the award, please complete the submission form down below and submit an electronic copy of the paper (with your name and the name of your instructor removed—if you have your name in a header on each page, please remove that, too) to DMWC@parkland.edu by **5pm, Friday, May 8, 2026**. You can write to DMWC@parkland.edu if you have any questions.

Good luck!

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2025-26 Diana P. McDonald Award for Outstanding
Achievement in Creative Nonfiction Submission Form

Your Name:

Mailing Address:

Title of Submission:

Email Address:

Telephone:

This award is open to students enrolled in a Humanities Department course. Please indicate, by course and section number, a Humanities Department course that you were enrolled in Fall 2025 or Spring 2026:

Course:

Course #:

Section #:

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY AFFIRMATION

I affirm that the piece of writing identified above and which I am submitting for the Diana P. McDonald Award for Outstanding Achievement in Creative Nonfiction is my own original work. I honor Parkland's core values by affirming that I have followed all academic integrity guidelines for the work submitted.

Type in your name as affirmation of academic honesty:

Date:

Submit an electronic copy of your essay [with your and, if relevant, your teacher's names removed] to
DMWC@parkland.edu.

DEADLINE: 5pm, Friday, May 8, 2026