

Richard Grand Legal Writing Competition Fall 2020

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the Richard Grand Legal Writing Competition. Over the course of his life, Tucson attorney Richard Grand had to deal with unexpected challenges. He was born in 1930 in the Free State of Danzig, a semi-autonomous city-state that straddled what is now the border between Poland and Germany. His family was able to leave Danzig in 1939 with other Jewish families. On September 1, 1939, the Nazis invaded Danzig and Poland, abolishing the Free State and sending many of the Jews who remained there to their deaths in concentration camps.

Although this personal experience likely drew Mr. Grand to a career focused on justice, he tried other careers (like being a disc jockey) before pursuing a career in law. Upon graduating from law school, he worked for the Pima County Attorney's Office, where, according to his obituary, "he lost 14 out of 15 jury trials in three months." He then left the County Attorney's Office and opened his own firm, eventually becoming one of the most successful trial attorneys in the country.

Mr. Grand's life was full of unexpected challenges, both big and small, and his responses to those challenges contributed to making him the person he became. For this competition, please write a personal essay explaining how you have handled unexpected challenges in your life and how you have grown through those experiences.

You have complete discretion as to what type of essay you write, with the following restrictions:

- The essay must relate to things about which you have personal knowledge, experience, or have impacted you in a direct way. In other words, this is not a research project. It is a personal essay.
- A good portion of the essay should be written in the first person. This is a personal essay, so you will be writing about your own personal thoughts, personal opinions, and personal experiences. Of course, some parts—maybe even significant parts—of the essay may be in the second or third person, but the essay should largely be written from your own personal point of view.
- The essay must be your own original work prepared exclusively for the competition. You may not enter work that was written—in part or in full—before the beginning of this competition.

- The essay may not be a work of fiction. Please write about real events, real people, real observations, and your real point of view.

This is a writing competition. Feel free to use storytelling, metaphor, analogy, literary references, and other techniques to capture and persuade your audience. We encourage you to be interesting, to communicate a point of view, to educate your reader, to tell a compelling story, to turn a phrase here and there.

We anticipate that you will not cite any authorities or court opinions in your personal essay. If for some reason, however, you do discuss a case or an authority of some sort, you need not use formal Bluebook or ALWD-style citation. It is perfectly acceptable to identify your case without any formal citation, i.e. “In 1966, nearly thirty years before I was born, the United States Supreme Court decided the landmark case of *Miranda v. Arizona*.”

All entries must be submitted anonymously, using a competition number and not a name. To obtain your competition number, please send an email to martinds@email.arizona.edu. In your email, please state that you are participating in the Richard Grand Legal Writing Competition and that you would like a competition number. Include your name, phone number, and whether you are a 1L, 2L, 3L, MLS, LLM, or SJD student. You will receive your competition number by email. Please place this number on every page of your entry. We recommend that you obtain your number in the first day or two of the competition. That way, if we need to send an e-mail with a clarification or correction, we will be able to reach you.

Note: If for any reason you are unable to obtain a competition number before the submission deadline, just email your entry on time. In your email, ask for a competition number. One will be assigned to you, and that number will be added to every page of your entry. The staff will make sure that your entry is transmitted to the judges anonymously, with no trace of your identity on the entry.

All entries must be typed and double-spaced, in 13-point font or larger. Block quotes may be single-spaced. Margins must be one inch or larger on all four sides. Please number the pages at the bottom. The maximum length of the paper is 2000 words, including any headings or footnotes. But please don't feel compelled to meet the maximum word limit. Write just as many words as necessary to craft a complete, interesting essay.

Examples of personal essays abound. You can find them on the web, in newspapers, in magazines, in books, etc. Below are a few links to some personal essays that have been posted on the web.

- <http://thisibelieve.org/essay/7698/>
- <http://thisibelieve.org/essay/72989/>
- http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/26/magazine/my-life-as-an-undocumented-immigrant.html?_r=0
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/09/opinion/sunday/i-went-back-to-the-land-to-feed-my-family.html>
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/09/opinion/sunday/brain-injury-and-building-a-new-life-afterwards.html>

Please carefully read the competition Rules and Frequently Asked Questions. All essays are due by email to Ms. Debbie Martin, martinds@email.arizona.edu, no later than 8:00 a.m. on Monday, October 26, 2020.