

Richard Grand Legal Writing Competition Fall 2021

Tucson attorney Richard Grand was an avid art collector. According to his obituary, Grand and his wife commissioned art pieces from local artists, often loving pieces with bright, vivid colors.¹ Mr. Grand also loved attending plays and movies. The Richard Grand Foundation has donated significant amounts of money to cultural endeavors, including art and music schools, a theater, a writers' conference, and a book center.

Many people find inspiration from art, music, books, the theater, movies, and even commercials. Sometimes this inspiration can prompt people to make significant life changes, like moving to a different state or country or pursuing a different career.

For this competition, please write a personal essay explaining how you have been inspired to make a change by some element of pop culture—whether it be art, theater, books, movies, music, a TikTok, etc.

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 or experience or that 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

¹ If you don't believe us, check out the art in Room 118, which is from the Grand's collection.

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, November 1, 2021.