

The Ethics and Social Justice Center and College of Health Professions present the 2025 Prize in Bioethics and Social Justice 11th Annual Essay Competition

Award: 1st Prize- \$250.00, 2nd Prize- \$150.00

Contest Deadline: Friday, November 7 at 5:00pm EDT

Goal of the Competition: This annual essay competition aims to raise awareness of today's urgent ethical issues confronting the health care industry, patients, and providers. This annual competition initiates and facilitates important dialogues across the university to help students cultivate the skills that promote the key Bellarmine values of civic engagement, critical reflection, moral courage, and leadership.

Eligibility: Registered full- or part-time undergraduate or graduate students at Bellarmine University during the fall 2025 semester.

Essay Topic: The Ethical Interdependence of Public Health, Personal Wellness, and Environmental Sustainability

Write a clear, concise, and well-organized essay exploring the ethical significance of the connections between public health, individual wellness, and the health of the environment. Consider how environmental conditions such as air and water quality, climate change, and access to green spaces, impact both personal and collective well-being. Reflect on the moral responsibilities that individuals, communities, and institutions may have in promoting environmental sustainability as a means of supporting public health and wellness.

Review Criteria:

- ❖ Clear articulation and expression of ideas.
- ❖ Carefully proofread essay.
- ❖ Good grammar, punctuation, and paper mechanics.
- ❖ Well thought-out and focused essay.
- ❖ Creative, thoughtful, reflective, and imaginative.

Essay Format:

- ❖ Your essay should be approximately 1500-2000 words.
- ❖ Include a title at the start of the paper.

- ❖ Write the essay in a formal voice and articulate a clear thesis statement.
- ❖ Follow the APA Style Manual for formatting and style.
- ❖ Your submission must be your own work.
- ❖ One essay per student please.
- ❖ Type in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1" margins and numbered pages.
- ❖ Save essays as a Word or PDF document only.

Submissions will be judged anonymously, so your paper must be prepared for blind review. Omit all identifying references, such as your name. Also, remove all identifiers in the 'properties' of the document.

Submission Guidelines for Students:

- ❖ Send essays electronically to Dr. Kate Johnson at kjohnson@bellarmine.edu.
- ❖ In the body of your email include your name, title of essay, word count, your major, graduation year, undergraduate/graduate status (freshman, sophomore, etc.) and full or part-time status, email address, student ID #, contact phone number, and name of your faculty mentor.
- ❖ Entries must include verification from a faculty mentor. Once you submit your essay, your mentor will be contacted to verify the quality and authenticity of your submission.
- ❖ In the subject line of the email, please write "Bioethics & Social Justice Submission 2025."
- ❖ Submit your essay no later than 5:00pm EDT on Friday, November 7.
- ❖ We do not accept paper or hardcopy submissions.

The author of the winning essay will be notified by 5:00pm EST on Thursday, December 4, 2025.