

What Freedom Means to Me

The City of Delphi and the Delphi Public Library are co-sponsoring an essay contest on the topic of “What Freedom Means to Me.” In this personal essay, writers are invited to share their beliefs and thoughts about freedom and how it impacts their lives. The contest is open to writers of all ages who are residents of Carroll County. There are three entry categories: ages 12 and under, ages 13-17, and ages 18 and over. Three monetary prizes of \$25 each will be awarded in each category, and those winning essayists will be invited to read their essay at a special event to be held on Tuesday, July 10, 2018, at 6:30 pm. The event will be held on the lawn of the Carroll County Courthouse.

Tell a story about you: Be specific. Consider moments when your beliefs were formed or tested or changed. Think of your own experience, work, school, and family, and tell of the things you know that no one else does. Your story need not be heart-warming or gut-wrenching—it can even be funny—but it should be real. Make sure your story ties to the essence of your daily life philosophy and the shaping of your beliefs.

Be brief: Your statement should be between 500 and 600 words. That’s about three minutes when read aloud at your natural pace. (Younger essayists, ages 12 and under, should write at least 250 words.)

Be positive: Write about what you *do* believe, not what you *don’t* believe. Avoid statements of religious dogma, preaching, or editorializing.

Be personal: Make your essay about you; speak in the first person. Tell a story from your own life; this is not an opinion piece about social ideals. Write in words and phrases that are comfortable for you to speak. We recommend you read your essay aloud to yourself several times, and each time edit it and simplify it until you find the words, tone, and story that truly echo your belief and the way you speak.

Deadlines:

- Essays are due by Friday, June 22, 2018.
- Submissions must include name, age, address, phone, and email contact information.
- Essays may be emailed to dplibrary@delphilibrary.org or dropped off at the Delphi Public Library, 222 E. Main St., Delphi.
- Winners will be announced and notified on July 2, 2018.

**What Freedom Means to Me
Essay Contest Submission Form**

Name _____ Age _____

Street Address _____ Phone # _____

City _____ Email _____