



Live Deliberately Essay Contest Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Reviewers

Live Deliberately Essay Contest Volunteer Reviewers will ideally have at least some experience with reviewing/evaluating written work at the middle school, high school and/or college level. There are two roles for Volunteer Reviewers:

Pre-Screeners:

- Preview submissions to ensure that they do not exceed the word limit and that they make an earnest attempt to address that year's specific prompt.
- Do NOT score essays. Pre-Screeners are only screening for eligibility.
- Agree to preview at least 30 essays (as this is not an in-depth reading, we ask for Pre-Screeners to review more than the Round 1/Round 2 Reviewers).
- Preview essays any time between when the prompt is posted (usually around November 15) and about a week after the Contest deadline (mid-late February), as essays come in and as the volunteer's schedule allows.

Round 1/Round 2 Reviewers:

- Agree to review at least 12 essays (if you want to do more, that's great!).
- Elect to take part in either Round 1 or 2 of essay review (or both, if you have the time and interest!).
- Use the provided Essay Contest rubric to provide scores and feedback on each essay.
- Submit scores and feedback on the essays to WWP Director of Education, within the given time period. Reviewers will have about a week and a half per Round in which to read and review essays.

Advisory Board

Live Deliberately Essay Contest Advisory Board members:

- Establish the timelines and guidelines that are used to facilitate the Contest.
- Assist in the maintenance of a rubric to be used by all Essay Contest Volunteer Reviewers, to provide cross-reviewer consistency to the review process and ensure that essays are judged by standards specific to this Contest.
- Brainstorm ideas for and select each year's Thoreau quotation and corresponding prompt.
- Devise new strategies for promoting the Contest to potential participants around the globe.
- Help identify and approach potential Volunteer Reviewers.

The time commitment of the Advisory Board is heaviest in early fall and about 6 weeks after the Contest deadline (to make final decisions). The work of the Advisory Board is conducted in meetings that members may attend in-person at the Walden Woods Project office, or by conference call. The frequency of those meetings/calls is not consistent, but will likely not be more than twice in any one month. The time commitment will likely average about 4-5 hours per month from September-March. Previous experience with the Essay Contest and/or other Walden Woods Project education programs is preferred. Email Whitney Retallic at education@walden.org if interested in learning more about the Advisory Board.

If you are interested in being a Volunteer Reviewer, please complete the on-line form at <https://www.walden.org/education/essay-contest/volunteer-reviewer/>.