



# FREE EXCHANGE

on Campus  
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## Student Voices Essay/Video Contest

The Free Exchange on Campus coalition is excited to be engaging members of the campus communities at American colleges and universities with the Campus Voices campaign. As part of this campaign, we're introducing the Student Voices Essay/Video Contest, where students like you can share their own experiences with the vibrant exchange of ideas that occurs every day in the college classroom.

It's no surprise that the college campus is an environment where students are challenged with new ideas and points of view on a daily basis, and that these educational encounters foster intellectual growth and self-reflection. There are those, however, who see these engagements as a dangerous form of indoctrination rather than as an educational opportunity. They've been successful in finding a platform to have their views heard. *This is your chance to tell the **real** story of what goes on in the classroom and how it has affected **your** life.*

For this contest, we are asking you to write a 1,000-word essay, or produce a three-minute video, telling us about an experience when an on-campus activity particularly engaged you. You may:

- Recount how a particular event forced you to re-examine your own views and values in a way that led you to better understand—or possibly change—what you believe.
- Tell about how a controversial topic was discussed in an educational context that gave you a more nuanced understanding of the issue than you previously had.
- Discuss how original and exciting ideas helped open up new vistas of comprehension and inquiry.

These events may include a particularly exciting class or classroom discussion, an innovative academic program, or a campus-sponsored event that occurred outside the classroom. You also should reflect on why an unfettered intellectual dialogue on college campuses is essential for these epiphanies to occur. The intention is not just to recognize that significant intellectual dialogue takes place on campus, but to highlight what happens during such dialogue that is so important in engaging students in the educational experience.

We will be awarding a **\$500 prize** to both the best essay and the best video (based on the decisions of a panel of faculty and student judges), and **\$250** for runners-up in each format. Submissions will be featured on the Free Exchange on Campus Web site and at YouTube, and print submissions will be turned into materials to help us in our legislative and other political fights to tell the real story of what's happening in higher education.

This contest will run from now until March 14, 2008, with the winners to be announced in the spring of 2008. Submissions (videos should be burned onto a CD/DVD) should be sent to:

Student Voices Contest  
c/o AFT Higher Education  
555 New Jersey Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

You also may submit your entry via e-mail to [studentvoices@freeexchangeoncampus.org](mailto:studentvoices@freeexchangeoncampus.org).

We look forward to hearing your voice as part of the conversation!