Spirituality and Public Health National Student Essay Contest

Doug Oman[1] and Katelyn Long[2]

Of special interest to students and faculty concerned with spirituality and/or religion, the fourth annual Spirituality and Public Health National Student Essay Contest is now underway. The contest is accepting submissions through the end of 2019 (see http://www.spirituality-public-health-essay.com/). Since its 2016 launch, the contest has awarded $1900 each year to graduate students enrolled in public health schools, colleges, or programs affiliated with the Association of Schools and Colleges of Public Health (ASPPH). Prizes are $1000 for First Prize, $600 for Second Prize, and $300 for Third Prize. Some years we’ve also had funding to print congratulatory messages in the American Public Health Association’s official newspaper, The Nation’s Health.[3]

Initially launched in 2016 with funding from the John Templeton Foundation, the contest aims to support several educational and field-building goals. Perhaps most directly and importantly, it aims to catalyze and intensify student engagement in academic and professional exploration of religion/spirituality (R/S) and public health. A second aim is alerting faculty and reinforcing student recognition of the need for increased attention to spiritual and religious factors in public health curricula. National surveys have documented perceptions among public health students and school leaders (e.g., deans) of the validity and need for such increased attention to R/S factors (Oman, 2018a). Third, the contest aims to highlight and facilitate the continued growth of evidence on R/S factors and health that already includes well over 3000 empirical studies and a growing number of books (e.g., Holman, 2015; Idler, 2015; Oman, 2018b). Unfortunately, despite this evidence base, R/S factors at present remain poorly covered in the education of many public health students, including nearly half of Oman’s (2018a) national survey respondents whose public health education had never addressed R/S topics.[4]

This national essay contest was initially organized by faculty of schools of public health at Drexel University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Maryland, and the University of North Texas, who with colleagues elsewhere have carried out the judging. Prize-winning essays, listed on the contest website (http://www.spirituality-public-health-essay.com/winners/), have been submitted by students at universities that include Emory, Johns Hopkins, Loma Linda, the Universities of Arizona, California (Berkeley, Irvine), Minnesota, and South Carolina. Winning essays have explored topics ranging from the relevance of R/S factors to the US opioid epidemic or to mental health promotion among North Korean refugees, from God-focused locus of control among American breast cancer patients, to closing India’s mental health treatment gap through formal collaboration between allopathic and faith-based practitioners.

Please spread word about this contest, alerting public health students and faculty to the existence and importance of the emerging field of spirituality, religion, and public health.

Each year we’ve publicized the contest by sending notices to as well as contacts identified through the internet at each school’s administration, such as a leaders of student services divisions, as well as to interested colleagues. Such dissemination has generated an increasing number of submissions nearly every year, but we suspect that dissemination could be much broader. We encourage all readers of this article to consider sharing through appropriate channels with public health students and colleagues.
health colleagues and public health students (see http://www.spirituality-public-health-essay.com/share/). If you have questions, or would like to be involved in other ways, or perhaps help organize a separate “track” for undergraduate public health majors, please feel free to contact the author (dougoman@berkeley.edu).

References


[1] Doug Oman, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley (dougoman@berkeley.edu).


[4] Out of 980 total student respondents, only 516 (53%) affirmed that R/S topics had received any coverage at all in their public health education” (Oman, 2018a, p. 346).

[5] An undergraduate award track was piloted in Fall 2017, but effective publicity proved challenging.
This annual essay contest is organized in an effort to harness the energy, creativity and initiative of the world's youth in promoting a culture of peace and sustainable development. It also aims to inspire society to learn from the young minds and to think about how each of us can make a difference in the world. * This program is an activity within the framework of UNESCO’s Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030). 2. Essays must be 700 words or less in English or French, or 1600 characters or less in Japanese. Essays must be typed, with your name and essay title included at the top of the first page. There are no particular rules regarding formatting (font style, size, line space, etc.). 500+ Words Essay on Healthy Lifestyle. It is said that it is easy to learn and maintain bad habits but it is very difficult to switch them back. The issue of a healthy lifestyle is very serious but the people take it very lightly. You can help me on the topic essay as discuss the benefit and drawbacks for young people to be financial literate pliiss. You Must Be Logged In To Vote12You Must Be Logged In To Vote Reply. 1 month ago. Public Health Issue: Smoking This essay is aimed to explore, analyse and discuss smoking in adults. Smoking is a public health issue as such is one of the major contributors to high mortality and ill-health in the adults which is preventable (Health and Excellence Care (NICE) (2012). The United Kingdom (UK) is known to have the highest number of people with a history of smoking among people with low socio-economic status (Scriven and Garman, 2006; Goddard and Green, 2005). Smoking is considered. Continue Reading. History of Public Health Essay. 938 Words | 4 Pages. Essay on Health. Health refers to a person’s physical, mental and social well being. A person is said to be enjoying good health when he is devoid of any physical ailments, mental stress and enjoys good interpersonal relationships. The definition of health has evolved over the decades. Healthcare in India. There is no National health insurance system for the citizens of India. This is the reason why the private sector is the main healthcare provider in the country. Education: It focuses on the cultural literacy of the students and professionals. Many schools have started incorporating it in their curriculum. Conclusion. Band 7 IELTS essay sample. Some people argue that building more sporting facilities is the most effective way to improve public health; however, others argue that playing a sport or building more sports clubs alone is not sufficient. According to them, other measures are required to ensure public health. I do admit that sports are beneficial for health, but in my opinion people also need to follow a healthy diet and a healthy lifestyle. Beyond doubt, there are several benefits to indulging in sporting activities. Most of the outdoor and indoor sports require physical effort and this in turn ma