



2025 PAUL SIMON STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association's **PAUL SIMON STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST** provides a \$500 scholarship to the student who best describes "How My Community College Has Changed My Life."

CONTEST RULES

All currently enrolled students at ICCTA member colleges are eligible to participate in the Paul Simon Student Essay Contest at the local level. However, each ICCTA member college may enter only **ONE** student essay in the statewide competition each year.

Each essay must be brief (less than 500 words), typed, and address the theme "How My Community College Has Changed My Life." **Entrants must use "How My Community College Has Changed My Life" as the essay's title.** Each submission must be accompanied by a completed Entry Form.

All entries will be judged on the basis of the following criteria:

- Writing style
- Clarity of expression
- Relevancy to the theme "How My Community College Has Changed My Life"
- Use of correct grammar and punctuation

★ Failure to follow these rules will result in the disqualification of an essay ★

CONTEST DEADLINES

*Essays are due in Southeastern's
Office of Academic Affairs (C 203)
no later than FEBRUARY 28, 2025
The local winner will receive
a \$50.00 award and the right to
compete in the statewide contest. SIC will submit the
local winning essay to the ICCTA for participation in the
statewide contest.*

The state ICCTA winner of the Paul Simon Student Essay Contest will receive a \$500 cash stipend for educational expenses during the Fall 2025 semester. In addition, ICCTA will invite the winner to attend the association's June 6, 2025 awards banquet.