

# The Bernice L. Fox Classics Writing Contest 2025

Sponsored by the Department of Classics at Monmouth College

**Topic: One or More Figures from Classical History, Literature, or Mythology as the Next President of the United States, or Running for the Office**

2025 is the year when the U.S. presidential elected in fall of 2024, after many months of campaigning, begins a new term, with many Americans looking ahead with hope and/or apprehension at the four years to come with this person as the nation's chief leader. This year's Fox Contest prompt asks you to consider a figure or figures



from the classical world as either the nation's next president, or as one or more competitors on the campaign trail leading into the election. Just as the nation's presidents have not always been those who have strictly followed the *cursus honorum* (i.e., serving in a string of elected offices for which the presidency would be a next logical step), so too should you be open to choosing ANY figure (s) from the ancient world whom you think would be interesting choices for the next president. Please depict your leader(s) or

candidate(s) in contemporary American circumstances, but acting in ways that are recognizable of that figure or figures from what we know of her, him, or them from classical history, literature, or mythology.



## Contest Guidelines

- Entries must fit the theme of this year's contest and must be in English.
- Entries must be typed and should be submitted electronically (in Google Doc or Microsoft Word format) by a teacher or other adult (as explained below). Please ensure that the document is able to be edited by the organizers (i.e., no PDFs, please).
- There is no minimum or maximum length, but please be sure to make it long enough to develop the story interestingly.
- The entrant's name and school must not appear on pages on which the text of the entry is printed. Instead, contestants should place a personal identification code (a randomly selected nine-character series) on the top left-hand corner of every page of the entry and include with their submission a separate document containing the following information:
  - author's name, date of birth, and personal identification code;
  - school name, mailing address, and phone number;
  - teacher's name and email address.

## Contest Parameters and Judging

This contest is open to any student enrolled full-time in high school anywhere in the world during the current school year. An award of \$250 will be given to the author of the best entry, which may take the form of a short story, essay, play, poem, or original literary work of any other sort.

Entries will be judged on accuracy to ancient sources (as relevant to this project), appropriate use of those sources, originality, quality of material, thematic development, English style, and effectiveness of presentation.

- No more than ten entries will be accepted from any individual school, and only one entry per student will be accepted.
- Students who wish to enter the contest without school sponsorship (i.e., if they are homeschooled or at a school that is not taking part in the contest) must have a parent or other adult submit their work, and must include on their information page an explanation for their independent submission.
- Failure to follow these guidelines will result in disqualification.
- Every entrant will receive a certificate of participation from Monmouth College.
- The winner will be announced on or close to April 15, **2025**, on the Monmouth College Classics Department Facebook page and/or on the Fox Contest website.
- Send all entries and any questions to Prof. Robert Holschuh Simmons at [rsimmons@monmouthcollege.edu](mailto:rsimmons@monmouthcollege.edu).
- For further information, including a list of previous winners, please consult the contest website at <http://department.monm.edu/classics/Department/FoxContest/>. For information about our department, please visit <https://monmouthcollege.edu/academics/classics> and <https://www.facebook.com/MonmouthCollegeClassics>.

**All entries must be sent via email no later than March 15, 2025**

#### **About Bernice L. Fox**

The Fox Classics Writing contest was established in 1985 by Dr. Tom Sienkewicz and the Department of Classics at Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois, to honor Bernice L. Fox, to promote the study of Latin and the Classics in high schools, and to recognize the good work of high school students. Bernice L. Fox taught courses in English, Latin and Greek at Monmouth College from 1947 to 1981, and served as chair of the Department of Classics from 1970 until her retirement in 1981. Throughout her long and dynamic career, she worked tirelessly to promote the Classics in Illinois high schools and colleges. She is also the author of *Tela Charlottae*, the Latin translation of E. B. White's *Charlotte's Web*. In 1991, Monmouth College conferred on her the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. She passed away in 2003.

