

WGS Studies *Essay Contest*



The EIU Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program is currently seeking submissions for this year's essay contest!

The competition is open to all EIU students, and submissions focused on women's history or issues of gender and/or sexuality and their connections to the diversity of lived experiences in the U.S. or around the world are welcome. The best essays at the undergraduate and graduate levels will be awarded cash prizes, and their authors will be recognized at the program's annual award reception in March.

Deadline: Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2026

Send entries to Professor Bobby Martínez, rlmartinez@eiu.edu

See the following page for submission guidelines and contest rules.

WOMEN MAKING HISTORY.

Rules for the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program Writing Award

1. All currently enrolled students at Eastern Illinois University are eligible.
2. Only one entry per contestant is allowed. However, a collection of short essays or journalistic pieces by one author may be submitted as a single entry.
3. Papers written during the calendar year previous to the award (spring, summer, or fall semesters) or the concurrent semester (spring) are eligible.
4. Both essays and research papers are acceptable. Fiction and poetry are not.
5. Entries should incorporate a feminist perspective, here defined as one that upholds or promotes feminism, or that submits gender roles to analysis or critique compatible with feminism. Feminism is here defined as the belief in or advocacy of political, economic, and social equity, especially women's rights and interests.
6. Entries must be typewritten, double spaced, and approximately 1800 - 5000 words (6-20 pages) in length, exclusive of any attached documentation.
7. Entries will be submitted for blind review to a panel of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Faculty; entries will be evaluated on the following qualities:
 - a. thoughtful incorporation of feminist perspective,
 - b. originality of conception,
 - c. logic, style, and coherence of writing.
8. The winning entry(s) will receive a cash award, to be presented at an Awards Reception during Women's History Month in March. Judges may, at their discretion, award certificates of Honorable Mention. Judges also reserve the right not to make an award.
9. Submissions must include the following information (in the email or in a separate attachment):

- Title of Paper (*optional*: title of course + professor for whom it was written)
- Your Name, Major, Rank (undergraduate vs. graduate student)
- Contact Information (e-mail, phone, mail)
- EIU ID number (E #)
- Your name should NOT appear on the paper itself

Deadline: Tuesday, Feb 27, 2026

Email entries to:

Dr. Bobby Martínez, English Dept. rlmartinez@eiu.edu

Direct questions to Bobby Martínez or to the EIU Women's Resource Center (wsmminor@eiu.edu).