

Hello,

Pi Sigma Alpha – the National Political Science honor society – is hosting our annual political essay contest! The event is open to the **entire campus** and the deadline is **Friday May 5th at 5:00 PM**. 1st place will receive **\$100**, 2nd place will receive **\$75** and 3rd place will receive **\$50**. I have included the questions below and attached them as a PDF document.

Pick one prompt below to write about and send it back to either [giammatj@union.edu](mailto:giammatj@union.edu) or [zdunczya@union.edu](mailto:zdunczya@union.edu) as a PDF document by the deadline above. Please adhere to a 750 word limit!

1. Despite the history of *Roe v. Wade*, the United States Supreme Court in June of 2022 overturned the right to abortion in the case *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Please reflect on the current state of abortion rights in the country almost a year after this decision and the implication of this ruling on future policy and Supreme Court decisions.
2. Environmental problems have become increasingly important in American and global politics alongside other social, political, and economic issues. Discuss how science, politics, economics, or value systems have either facilitated (or hindered) different policy solutions. Please provide an example of an environmental issue to illustrate your point.
3. Union College announced that its 2023 Commencement Speaker will be Dr. Stanley Andrisse who is an assistant professor at the Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. and executive director of the non-profit Prison-to-Professionals (P2P), which seeks to change the lives of people with criminal convictions through advocacy, mentoring and policy. Discuss ways that our current government can implement policies to advocate for those with criminal convictions.
4. It has largely been debated whether religion or religious organizations have had a positive or negative effect on America's current political landscape. How do you view the influence that religion has had on politics?
5. Revise or otherwise edit a political science essay which you have written in the past. The topic can be entirely of your own choosing and need not be in any way related to the topics above.