

The 2011 Hinman Award for Literary Studies

The Hinman Award for Literary Studies is awarded each Spring to the best undergraduate essay focusing on literary analysis, film studies, and/or cultural criticism. The author of the winning essay shall receive a \$100 prize, as well as publication on the English Department website. Honorable Mentions may also be awarded at the discretion of the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee for The Hinman includes literature and film faculty from the Plymouth State English Department. All submissions are blind. Submissions are welcome from all full-time PSU undergraduate students with a declared major or minor in English (any option).

The prize is named after Mary-Lou Hinman, a former professor of English at Plymouth State. Dr. Hinman taught for twenty-five years at the college, chaired the English Department, and won the 1995 Distinguished Teaching Award.

To submit an essay of any length for consideration, email your submission to Dr. Robin DeRosa, Chair of The Hinman Selection Committee, at rderosa@plymouth.edu. Submissions must be attached to your email as a Word document, and your name should NOT appear in the document. Please include your telephone number with your email.

Deadline for 2011 submissions: Friday, April 15th by 4pm.

Qualities that may characterize a winning essay:

- A clear, original, and thought-provoking thesis argument that analyzes a literary, filmic, or cultural text;
- Textual evidence that supports your thesis;
- Close reading of a passage or passages (or other relevant section of your text) in service of your thesis argument;
- A use of secondary sources, such as theoretical texts or analyses by other critics (no secondary sources are required to win this prize);
- Proper citation using MLA style or other appropriate format;
- Correct grammar, solid organization, and fluid writing style;
- Your paper should also have a title and page numbers.

RUBRIC for The Hinman

Title of Essay _____

Category	Assessment Questions	G= Good, F= Fair, P=Problems Noted (add comments as desired)
Thesis	Is it clear and focused?	
	Is it original? Does it contribute to the field?	
	Is it sophisticated? Complex? Thought-provoking?	
Textual Evidence	Is it prevalent without being overwhelming to the author's voice?	
	Is it smoothly integrated into the writing?	
	Is it properly cited?	
Close Reading	Is there attention to detail in selected passages, scenes, etc?	
	Is appropriate vocabulary used to describe details of the text?	

Secondary Sources	Does the paper use secondary sources?	
	Are sources crucial to the argument, or do they feel extraneous?	
	Are sources appropriately selected (ie- peer-reviewed or popular depending on the goal)?	
	Are they properly cited?	
Writing	Grammar	
	Spelling and Proofreading	
	Paragraphs focus	
	Intro & Conclusion	
	Transitions and flow	
	Page numbers and title	
Overall Impressions:		