Van Wagenen Library Research Paper Awards

The Van Wagenen Library Research Paper Awards seek to recognize and celebrate excellent writing and research as part of our annual Student Research Showcase. We hope to expand this awards program in subsequent years, but in our inaugural year, eligibility will be limited to essays submitted as research papers in sections of ENGL 101. Instructors may nominate one paper from each ENGL 101 section they taught at SUNY Cobleskill in Summer 2018 and/or Fall 2018. A judging panel consisting of a librarian, members of the teaching faculty, and a student will use a shared rubric to evaluate submissions. The prize winner and two runners-up will be announced at the Spring 2019 Student Research Showcase on Wednesday, April 24th. All nominees and the instructors who nominated them will be recognized at the Showcase and some papers will be accepted for online publication in the Van Wagenen Library Institutional Repository.

Eligibility
- papers must feature an argument, claim, or position supported by a minimum of four credible, cited sources
- papers must be original work created and submitted as a required assignment for an ENGL 101 class
- authors must be current SUNY Cobleskill students enrolled in ENGL 101 in Summer 2018 or Fall 2018
- papers must be accompanied by a completed submission form signed by both the paper’s author and the nominating instructor
- papers must be submitted for prize consideration in the same form as they were initially submitted for class (i.e., no correction or revisions may have been made since the paper was submitted for grading)

Process
- students may ask instructors to nominate their papers or instructors may approach students they would be willing to nominate
- the signed submission form and an ungraded/uncorrected print copy of the nominated paper must be delivered to the library before 5:00 pm March 29, 2019
- the instructor’s and student’s names will be removed from each submission and replaced with a code number prior to judging
- judges will use a common rubric to evaluate papers and will meet to vote on the prize winners
- the top three authors and their nominating instructors will be invited to the Showcase where the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be announced and distributed
- decisions of the judges are final
- the first-place winner will receive a prize of $50; the runners-up will each receive a prize of $25

Judging
The rubric used to evaluate submissions will consider the following criteria:
- clarity and focus of thesis
- effectiveness of organization and logical development of the argument
- fluency, variety, strength, and style of prose
- quality of grammar, punctuation, mechanics, spelling, and formatting
- relevance, appropriateness, and persuasiveness of research sources used
- proper formatting of Works Cited

Dates
- Announcements and submission forms sent out: December 8, 2018
- Deadline for receipt of submissions and signed nomination forms: March 29, 2019
- Judges reach decision (and top three finalists invited): April 15, 2019
- Winners announced at Student Research Showcase: April 24, 2019