

Women's Press Club of New York State Scholarship Application

The Women's Press Club of New York State, Inc. will award a scholarship of \$1,000 to a student who wishes to resume or continue his/her studies toward a career in the communications field and can demonstrate good communication skills.

Name: _____
Last First

Street Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Telephone _____

College or University (name and address):

Employer (name and address):

Are you a matriculated college student? Yes • No •

What is your major course of study? _____

Please indicate which year of study you will be entering in Fall 2017:

Sophomore: _____ Junior: _____ Senior: _____ Grad: _____

Will you be enrolled for the 2017-2018 academic year as a full- or part-time student?

Please list the names of those who will be submitting your letters of recommendation.

PART 1

Civic activities - Including, but should not be limited to, collegiate activities, civic involvement, service, professional organizations and neighborhood organizations.

Pre-professional jobs or internships –

Honors and awards – Special distinctions earned, school or civic

PART 2

Please write an essay of approximately 500 words, using both fact and opinion, to address the following subject. Sources can be cited within the text.

In the scenario described in the New York Times article below, a number of news organizations were prohibited from entering a White House press briefing on Feb. 24, 2017. How does this situation relate to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution? If you were a journalist in a similar situation, how would you react? Please explain your reasoning.

WASHINGTON — Journalists from The New York Times and two other news organizations were prohibited from attending a briefing by President Trump’s press secretary on Friday, a highly unusual breach of relations between the White House and its press corps.

Reporters from The Times, CNN and Politico were not allowed to enter the West Wing office of the press secretary, Sean M. Spicer, for the scheduled briefing. Aides to Mr. Spicer allowed in reporters from only a handpicked group of news organizations that, the White House said, had been previously confirmed to attend.

Organizations allowed in included Breitbart News, the One America News Network and The Washington Times, all with conservative leanings. Journalists from ABC, CBS, The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, and Fox News also attended.

Reporters from Time magazine and The Associated Press, who were set to be allowed in to the briefing, chose not to attend in protest of the White House’s actions.

“Nothing like this has ever happened at the White House in our long history of covering multiple administrations of different parties,” Dean Baquet, the executive editor of The Times, said in a statement. “We strongly protest the exclusion of The New York Times and the other news organizations. Free media access to a transparent government is obviously of crucial national interest.”

The White House Correspondents’ Association, which represents the press corps, quickly rebuked the White House’s actions.

“The W.H.C.A. board is protesting strongly against how today’s gaggle is being handled by the White House,” the association president, Jeff Mason, said in a statement. “We encourage the organizations that were allowed in to share the material with others in the press corps who were not. The board will be discussing this further with White House staff.”

The White House move came hours after Mr. Trump delivered a slashing broadside against the news media in a speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference.

**Transcripts should be mailed to:
Lauren Halligan, Scholarship Chair
Women's Press Club of New York State
P.O. Box 13493
Albany, NY 12212-3493**

All other materials, including letters of recommendation can be submitted electronically to Scholarship Chair Lauren Halligan at laurenhalligan1@gmail.com or to the P.O. Box address above.

Please contact Scholarship Chair Lauren Halligan with any questions or concerns at laurenhalligan1@gmail.com.