

Third Annual

Friends of the Lincoln Collection

High School Essay Contest

The Lincoln-Douglas Debates

**Essay Prompt:** The Lincoln-Douglas debates were a series of debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas. Lincoln was running for U.S. Senate as a Republican candidate against Douglas who was the incumbent Democratic senator. These debates covered numerous topics important to the candidates and their platforms for election. Using at least 4 primary sources from the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection (suggestions of primary sources can be found under the “Essay Contest” tab at www.friendsofthelincolncollection.org), formulate an originalresponse to this prompt:

**Compare and contrast 1) the role of the media, 2) the candidate’s individual influence, and 3) the issues/topics used to persuade voters during the Lincoln/Douglas Debates 160 years ago in 1858 to the methods practiced in today’s campaigns.**

**Essay Requirements:** 1,500-2,500 words

**Historical Timeline**

The Lincoln Douglas debates took place in seven towns across Illinois in 1858:

Ottawa on August 21

Freeport on August 27

Jonesboro on September 15

Charleston on September 18

Galesburg on October 7

Quincy on October 13

Alton on October 15

**Eligibility:** Indiana High School Students.

**Prizes:** $1,000 for first place, $500 for second place, and $250 for third place.

**Judging:** Individuals designated by the Friends of the Lincoln Collection board will be the sole and exclusive judges. Winners will be announced in December.

**Submission:** Essays must be received by November 9, 2018. Include your name, age, grade, and school. File name should be as follows: “YourLastName\_FirstName\_Lincoln.” (ie. Smith\_John\_Lincoln) Submit online at [www.friendsofthelincolncollection.org](http://www.friendsofthelincolncollection.org) under the “Essay Contest” tab.

**For More Information: Send inquiries to** **lincoln@acpl.info**