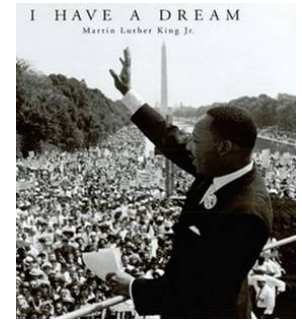


STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST: Fall 2017



# Spirituality, Religion, & Public Health



What is the relevance, good or bad,  
of spirituality and/or religion to the  
health of the public and to the  
field of Public Health?

<http://spirituality-public-health-essay.com/>

### Eligibility

Submissions are encouraged from any and all students in Public Health, graduate or undergraduate, enrolled in Fall 2017 in an accredited School or College of Public Health or an ASPPH-affiliated Public Health Program (aspph.org). Eligible undergrads must be majors in Public Health.

### Prizes\*

\$1000 first  
\$600 second  
\$300 third

## *National Essay Competition*

*for Fall 2017*

*Public Health Students:*

*Graduate &/or Undergraduate\**

### Background

More than 3000 empirical studies of religion/spirituality (R/S) and health have now been published, including more than 100 systematic reviews and meta-analyses. Longevity differentials of nearly 14 years longer life have been linked to R/S factors. Other health professions such as medicine and psychology have made major strides in addressing R/S factors in teaching and research. National surveys indicate that public health educational leaders are receptive to teaching about the topic, and that public health students want more information. This contest is intended to foster broader awareness of the vast evidence base on R/S and health, and its relevance to Public Health as a field.

### Topics

Essays must discuss relations between spirituality/religion and Public Health, situating their arguments in the context of the more than 3000 published empirical studies of R/S and health.

Example topics:

- How can collaborations with religious communities empower populations to attain better health?
- How would community-based Public Health Education change if R/S factors were fully taken into account?
- In what ways are R/S factors relevant to improving well-established health behavior X or preventing the incidence of disease Y in population Z?
- What would be the nature of a new Public Health that better acknowledges R/S factors?
- How strong is the evidence that any dimension of spirituality or religion is a “fundamental cause” of health in the sense articulated by Link and Phelan (1995)?\*

### Criteria for Judging

Winning essays should be clearly written and should also

- Include a clear thesis statement and its support
- Refer to empirical literature on R/S-health
- Explain health relevance
- Articulate Public Health relevance beyond perspectives of individually-focused health fields (e.g., medicine, psychology)\*

### Details, Timeline, & Submission

Essays should be between 1000 and 2000 words in length. Entries must be uploaded by Wednesday, January 3, 2018.\*

\*Separate division exist for graduate and undergraduate students (6 total prizes). For more information and to upload submitted essays, please visit

<http://spirituality-public-health-essay.com/>