

# **Raymond College Alumni Associates Essay Competition Pacific Seminar 1**

In the early 1960s, Pacific established three schools or “cluster” colleges that were innovative in the United States due to their curricula and their integration of faculty and students into living and learning communities. In 1962, Raymond College was the first of these cluster colleges. It was a rigorous liberal arts and sciences college that had an interdisciplinary curriculum and no grades and no academic departments. In 1979, Raymond was absorbed into the College of the Pacific.

A group of Raymond Alumni have created an endowment fund to reward student excellence in the Pacific Seminar program, which preserves some of the spirit of the Raymond curriculum. In Pacific Seminar 1, faculty in each section will submit their best final student essay as part of a competition. Raymond alumni will evaluate the papers and choose 3-4 winners who will receive a \$200 award.

The criteria for the competition are as follows:

- (1) The essay should meet all the conditions of the assignment.
- (2) The essay should take a clear, well defined stand.
- (3) The essay should employ critical thinking in sound ways, using evidence from multiple sources to support and illuminate the essay's central and subordinate points. If the essay is argumentative, it should present evidence from opposing sides as well as from supporting sources.
- (4) Quotations should be integrated into the authorial discussion, and all citations should be properly documented, in keeping with the required format. The essay should reach a reasonable conclusion.
- (5) The essay should be written correctly, following the rules and conventions of standard written English. Ideally, it should be stylistically appealing and should have syntactic variety.

*For additional information about the Raymond Associates Essay Competition, contact the Director of General Education.*