

# The Ben Auburn Award in Cultural Criticism

Open to  
**All UA Undergraduate Students**

**The Ben Auburn Award in Cultural Criticism seeks to stimulate the production and recognition of works of general cultural criticism** by students at The University of Akron through an annual awards competition and symposium administered by the Williams Honors College. In addition, there will be a second category “AI Every Day.” **The first prize in each category will be \$500.**

The 2024 Symposium will be held on **Friday, April 19, 2024, at 3:00pm** in the Common Room of the Honors Complex. Awards will be made provided sufficient entries are received in each category.

Cultural criticism does not vilify our society. Rather, as culture adapts and changes, criticism identifies and assesses trends in the arts, aesthetics, and ideas of a human society. The critique is limited neither to high culture nor to popular movements, it can be applied across all human artistic and intellectual achievements. Moreover, cultural criticism can take many forms and appear in a variety of media. A series of related reviews, an extended essay or article, a monograph, or a chapter in a book are some written forms; video, audio, or filmed programs may constitute cultural criticism, as may exhibitions or performances, and works of imaginative textual (poems, fiction), pictorial, sculptural, and performance art designed primarily to reflect other works of the imagination.

**The special topic for this year’s Ben Auburn Award in Cultural Criticism is “AI Every Day.”** AI is now part of our every day reality. In what direction should this technology help to move our society? What are the dangers and opportunities inherent in this technology? How will this technology change our culture more broadly. As in the general category, students are encouraged to think broadly about the many forms that cultural criticism can take to approach this topic.

## Submission

The Ben Auburn Award competition is open to **all undergraduate students** at The University of Akron. Up to six participants will be invited to take part in the in-person public symposium on April 19, 2024. **The first prize in each category is \$500.**

Works must be submitted by  
**Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**  
to receive full consideration by the Awards  
Committee.

2024 Ben Auburn Award in  
Cultural Criticism Submission



For more information, please contact Dr. Matt Wyszynski, Senior Associate Dean, Williams Honors College, at [wyszynski@uakron.edu](mailto:wyszynski@uakron.edu), or at 330-972-6067. Additional details are also available at: <https://www.uakron.edu/honors/students/ben-auburn-award.dot>