

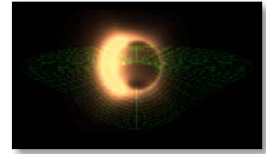
# Black Hole Initiative

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## Black Hole Essay Competition

The Black Hole Initiative announces awards for original essays on the topic of Black Holes.

**First Prize:** \$10,000

**Second Prize:** \$5,000

**Third Prize:** \$4,000

**Fourth Prize:** \$3,000

**Fifth Prize:** \$2,000

As the first interdisciplinary center for the study of black holes, the Black Hole Initiative (BHI) is a nexus for scholars from fields in which black holes play prominent roles: Mathematics, Philosophy, Astronomy, Physics and History. A central mission of the BHI is to foster cross-disciplinary studies and communication of results in the rapidly growing area of black hole science. Engaging essays that illuminate research and ideas are solicited.

1. Essays should be no longer than 1,500 words, written in English with a non-specialist audience in mind, and using accessible figures and equations only as necessary. Work may describe research, but the intent is that the competition not duplicate the function of traditional academic journals. Work that forges links across BHI disciplines through novel connections, explanations, or perspectives is encouraged, but not required, and essays that focus on a particular field that are of interest to the broad community will also be of interest. A short abstract and list of references will not be counted towards the essay length.
2. Essays should be sent as a single PDF file, no later than August 1, 2018 to Barbara Elfman ([belfman@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:belfman@fas.harvard.edu)) and include a cover page with the following information: Author name(s), author affiliation(s), contact email address(es), and essay abstract.
3. The awarded essays will be published in the print and on-line versions of Nautilus Magazine (<http://nautil.us>). Winning authors will be notified by Sept 15.
4. The essays will be judged anonymously by a panel selected by the Black Hole Initiative senior investigators, and the decision of the judges will be final.

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