**Athens Democracy Forum 2024**

**Student Delegate Application**

Application to participate in the Athens Democracy Forum has two steps.

Step 1: An interested student submits this application to their Chief Academic Officer or designee. Consult that person for your campus’ application due date.

Step 2: Each Alliance campus forwards up to two applications to Simon Gray (Gray@glca.org). These applications are to be submitted by the school’s Chief Academic Officer or designee. A review committee will make selections to create a group that represents a globally balanced set of perspectives and experience. There are 24 openings. We do not guarantee that one student per nominating campus will be selected.

***Students should take their summer obligations, fall course load, and the number of days they will miss class (including travel days) into account in considering whether to apply. You are expected to be a full participant in all preparatory work (summer and Athens), the Forum, and post-Forum reporting and action steps. The summer assignments from 2023 can be found on the*** [***Youth Democracy Forum site***](https://sites.google.com/view/youthdemocracyforum/participation/summer-work-2023?authuser=0)***. The assignments for summer 2024 are in development but will be similar in workload to those of 2023. Student delegates may not arrive late or leave early. See the Call for Nominations for important dates and details about participating.***

**PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM AS A WORD DOCUMENT – DO NOT CONVERT IT TO PDF**

**Demographic Information** (**Please enter responses *in* the text boxes provided below**; *DO NOT* delete the text box; just put the cursor in the text box and start typing!)

Name on Passport: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Gender[[1]](#footnote-2): Click or tap here to enter text.

Preferred pronouns (optional): Click or tap here to enter text.

Preferred Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Nationality: Click or tap here to enter text.

Institution: Click or tap here to enter text.

Major Discipline(s): Click or tap here to enter text.

Month and Year of Graduation: Click or tap here to enter text.

Passport expiration date: Click or tap here to enter text.

I agree to abide by the Requirements of Participation and the Important Dates given in the Call for Applications.

Essays – Please enter your responses in the space following the essay prompts.

Part I: In 200 words or less, describe your thoughts on and experience with *ONE* of the following 2024 Forum topics (please delete the topic descriptions you are *not* responding to). Tell us why this topic is of interest to you and share your experiences with it (curricular, co-curricular, work, volunteer, other). You *are not* being asked to respond to the questions in the session description. We want to hear why the topic is important to you and what you can bring to the conversation.

**Rethinking Journalism: A Crisis of Confidence**

It’s no secret that the news business has long been in decline. But in recent years, the story seems less about people’s shifting media habits and more about their waning confidence in journalism.  The latest Digital News Report from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, based on data from six continents, finds that only 40 percent of the public says they trust most news most of the time, while 36 percent say they actively avoid it. Is this a problem for democracy, and if so, what can be done about it? How can journalists hope to regain trust in an era when truth itself is a disputed concept?

**Rethinking Citizens: Who’s Listening?**

An old maxim declares that the voice of the people is the voice of God. An increasing number of initiatives seem to agree with this premise, from local citizens committees in Chile or Australia to transnational assemblies in Europe to radically open-source government models in Taiwan or Estonia. But to what extent do citizens’ voices lead to meaningful outcomes and lasting change? The people have spoken – but who is listening?

**Rethinking Faith: Vox Dei, Vox Populi**

Faith has become a major player in high-stakes politics, with right-wing evangelicals backing Trump in the U.S. the Patriarch backing Putin in Ukraine, and religious nationalists pushing their agenda in Israel. Meanwhile faith has also become a unifying factor across borders, and a license to use force to defend – or attack – people in the name of protecting beliefs. It’s one of the most visible battlegrounds in the war of ethics. Is modern faith a form of tribalism, or a means of rising above it?

**Rethinking Climate Tech: Promise or Pipe Dream?**

Despite apocalyptic weather and dire warnings, humanity is moving too slowly to counter the climate crisis. Some people – including investors pouring millions into the effort – say the only way to meaningfully tackle the emergency is through new technologies like carbon capture or geoengineering. (“If you solve this, the climate problem is done,” the investor Vinod Kosla told Azeem Azhar last year.)  Others argue, however, that this is a new form of greenwashing, which diverts funds from other ventures and discourages governments and individuals from making the hard changes necessary to reverse climate change. Can tech money fix the climate crisis?

***Your response goes here!***

Part II: Read two of the short essays from [10 Ideas to Fix Democracy](https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/01/07/10-ideas-fix-democracy/). In 400 words or less, summarize what the authors had to say (tell us which articles you read), then either expand an action suggested in one of the essays or share an action you would suggest related to an idea from one of the essays. These could be actions taken by individuals, governments, NGOs, businesses, or other institutions in response to an issue. You may also extend the ideas from the essays to the national context of your home country.

***Your response goes here!***

Part III:  Moving from idea to action is an important element of our participation in this year’s Forum. In 200 words or less, tell us what concrete steps you can imagine taking when you return to campus to act on a Forum theme. We do not take this as a promise that you will carry out this set of steps, but we want to see your thinking on what you see as valuable and *realistically achievable*. A set of possible actions is listed on the second page of the Call for Applications. Be concrete and tie this action to what you expect to learn from and experience at the Forum.

***Your response goes here!***

Part IV: In 100 words or less, how would participation in the Forum advance your post-graduate plans?

***Your response goes here!***

1. This field will be used to make rooming assignments in the hotel. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)