

## ETA SIGMA PHI 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Latin Prose Composition Contest (2022)

To be written as an examination, under supervision, within a maximum of three hours. You may use a dictionary that does not contain paradigms (e.g., *Cassell's*). Please write in ink on every other line of the paper provided. The only identification on the contest papers should be your pen name.

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**This is an excerpt from the “Free and Equal in Dignity and Rights” speech delivered in 2011 by then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to the United Nations, in celebration of International Human Rights Day. Although this speech carries an unassuming title, it treats a topic that was under-addressed on the world stage: LGBTQIA+ rights.**

Some have suggested that gay<sup>1</sup> rights and human rights are separate and distinct; but, in fact, they are one and the same. Now, of course, 60 years ago, the governments that drafted and passed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were not thinking about how it applied to the LGBT<sup>2</sup> community. They also weren't thinking about how it applied to indigenous people or children or people with disabilities or other marginalized groups. Yet in the past 60 years, we have come to recognize that members of these groups are entitled to the full measure of dignity and rights, because, like all people, they share a common humanity.

This recognition did not occur all at once. It evolved over time. And as it did, we understood that we were honoring rights that people always had, rather than creating new or special rights for them. Like being a woman, like being a racial, religious, tribal, or ethnic minority, being LGBT does not make you less human. And that is why gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights.

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<sup>1</sup> Derogatory or vulgar Latin words used to translate “gay” will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification. The Romans did not express a concept of sexual orientation and defined homoeroticism according to sexual position, which is NOT an acceptable approach to take here. The nuances of the English word “gay” are not readily available in Latin. It is recommended that you use the English word “gay” as an indeclinable adjective/noun in your Latin composition. Whatever you choose, please be courteous and sensitive.

<sup>2</sup> Similarly, it is recommended that you use the English “LGBT” here (or a more inclusive acronym, like LGBTQIA+, *vel sim.*). See note 1.

It is violation of human rights when people are beaten or killed because of their sexual orientation, or because they do not conform to cultural norms about how men and women should look or behave. It is a violation of human rights when governments declare it illegal to be gay, or allow those who harm gay people to go unpunished. [...] No matter what we look like, where we come from, or who we are, we are all equally entitled to our human rights and dignity.