

**FACULTY HONORS SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY: SPRING 2020**  
**HONORS PROGRAM: WOR-WIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**AWARD: \$500.00**

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students who meet the entrance criteria for the Honors Program and who have successfully completed one or more Honors courses or who have registered for an Honors course for the spring semester of the scholarship award may submit an essay.

**TOPIC:** On February 6, 2018, Elon Musk, the founder and CEO of both Tesla and SpaceX, launched a Tesla Roadster into space helmed by a mannequin in a spacesuit named “Starman.” SpaceX was founded in 2002 to “revolutionize space technology” with the “ultimate goal of enabling people to live on other planets.” The Tesla was carried by the Falcon Heavy, the world’s most powerful operational rocket. Critics lauded the billionaire’s marketing genius, bringing national attention to both Tesla and SpaceX with cameras mounted to the car live-streaming the journey. Others argued that the launch was nothing more than a marketing gimmick that did nothing to advance science, but merely contributed to the growing problem of space debris.

Beyond the stunt of sending a car into space, however, many disagree on whether billionaires like Musk should be spending their considerable wealth on space exploration or should focus on problems at home. Climate change, poverty, racial inequality, and even the most recent COVID-19 outbreak illustrate that there are many pressing global issues requiring attention. However, when facing scrutiny for the money he was pouring into SpaceX, Musk claimed that “races are exciting” and “silly and fun things are important,” alluding to his eventual goal to colonize Mars.

In an essay, present a research-based argument that addresses whether or not programs like SpaceX should continue to focus on space exploration/colonization or should be abandoned for more pressing concerns at home. Be sure to support your argument with credible research.

**FORMAT:** Three to four pages, double-spaced, typed using a 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial). Use MLA style documentation and include an MLA-style Works Cited page as the fourth or fifth page. Include a title for your essay and, at the end of the essay, include your full name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.

**SUBMISSIONS:** Attach your essay as a Microsoft Word file (.doc or .docx) to an email to: [mreddish@worwic.edu](mailto:mreddish@worwic.edu). The deadline for submissions is **November 13, 2020**. An award will be made on or before **November 30, 2020**.

**CONTACT:** Mrs. Melissa Reddish  
Honors English Faculty  
Phone: 410-334-2859