

## **Quill and Scroll Initiation – candle lighting**

*One large candle to serve as the light of TRUTH and smaller individual candles may be used for each student in this ceremony. Battery operated candles are recommended. A candle with a wax shield is recommended if burning candles are held by students.*

*Presenters may use this text for the initiation ceremony, or may adapt it to meet the needs of the chapter's ceremony.*

We are here tonight to initiate new members into Quill and Scroll, the International Honorary Society for High School Journalists. Quill and Scroll chapters include in their membership students who have excelled in the editorial, literary, business, art and graphics departments of their high school publications, and whose scholarship places them in the upper third of their respective classes or with the equivalent of at least a B grade point average.

Journalism is far-reaching in its aims. So tonight I light the candle of TRUTH to symbolize our aims and aspirations for the world in which we live, and that finer world of tomorrow towards which we strive. *(Presenter lights candle at head table/podium)*

I light the light of TRUTH, which signifies sincerity in character, action and speech. This light should serve as a guiding light to which the world may turn. It must be believed in and upheld at all times if justice and liberty are to prevail. Individuals should place TRUTH and the search for TRUTH above all other ideals.

It is the duty of Quill and Scroll members to take an active part in the search for TRUTH by maintaining a high standard of journalistic ethics. Quill and Scroll strives to make membership an honor that will stand as a model of the highest form of journalistic achievement.

From the light of TRUTH, Quill and Scroll first took its ideals in 1926 when it was organized by a group of high school journalism advisers and George Gallup. This light has spread to more than 14,200 chapters located in every state and in 44 foreign countries.

To become a member of the Society, a student must meet five qualifications: He or she must be of at least sophomore classification; must be scholastically in the upper third of his or her class or have the equivalent of at least a B grade point average cumulative; must have done superior work in high school journalism; must have been recommended by the journalism adviser or by the committee governing the high school's media; and approved for membership by the Quill and Scroll executive director.

Tonight, we are receiving into membership   #   candidates from \_\_\_\_\_ High School. As your names are read please come forward to receive your membership pin, and take a candle and light it from the candle of TRUTH; then take your place in a single line facing the audience.

*(After all students have candles, with candles lit ... read)*

You have been called here because you have demonstrated your worthiness for membership in Quill and Scroll. The ability that you have displayed in your work promises much for you whether or not you choose to enter the profession of journalism. But talent means little if it is not accompanied by works.

Membership in Quill and Scroll involves a responsibility, which you must not forget – the duty to devote yourself to the welfare of the school, and to any other group or community to which you may later belong. Remember that to be a leader in a real sense, you must acquire a background for assessing and interpreting the events of the day.

The pins of Quill and Scroll Society that you were presented tonight are symbolic of the painstaking efforts of the scribes of old to record the events of their time in permanent form. Today we need to accomplish that same goal. Let the Quill represent in your minds

the meticulous care that must be put forth to turn thoughts into proper language; let the Scroll represent the permanent quality of good writing.

Before being declared members of Quill and Scroll, I ask that you take this pledge to uphold the aims of the Society. Please raise your right hand. I will read the pledge, after which, if you agree and promise to uphold the pledge, please state "I do."

Do you pledge in the presence of all your colleagues, faculty, family and friends in attendance that you will be true to the ideals of Quill and Scroll Society? Do you pledge that in whatever field you choose to enter, you will always painstakingly seek the truth?

Will you strive to aide the best interests of the community? Will you be a responsible and reliable worker? And do you pledge to do all in your power to aide in the cause of better journalism? If you assume these responsibilities, please answer "I do."

I hereby declare you members of Quill and Scroll Society, with all of the rights, privileges and responsibilities that pertain to membership in the Society.

May you ever prove worthy of the faith that the Society has shown in you today. I congratulate each of you on receiving this honor.

Please extinguish your candles.

This completes the induction ceremony.