

Real journalism through community engagement.

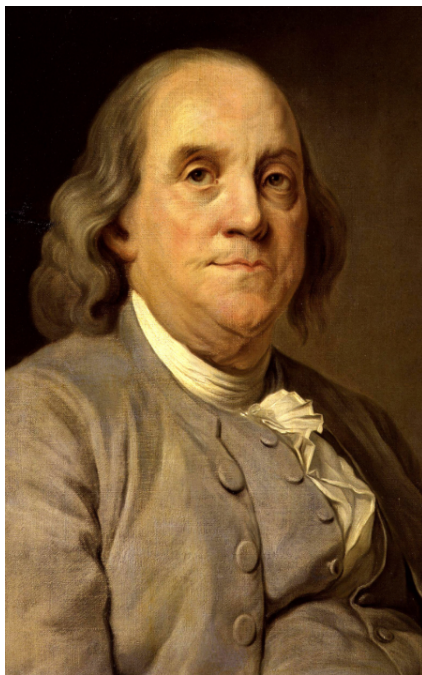
Use Quill and Scroll and TheChisel.com
to turn your ideas into solutions.

DO YOU:

- **Need** a meaningful Q&S chapter activity this semester?
- **Hope** to solve a problem in your community or school?
- **Want** to interact with policy-makers and journalists?

Quill and Scroll has partnered with TheChisel.com to help you develop skills in reporting on, writing about, and devising solutions for a problem in your school or hometown.

What's TheChisel.com?



Inspired by journalist and statesman Benjamin Franklin, TheChisel's new [ChiselLabs](#) is a pan-partisan online platform where you can post a policy proposal or community initiative. It's an easy-to-use tool to help you -- citizens and students alike -- build your own initiatives to get feedback from your peers, members of the public and TheChisel's professionals; improve your proposals; garner votes and support; and get your proposals into the hands of decision-makers.

Join experts from the nation's top think tanks and policy organizations -- Brookings Institution, American Enterprise Institute, Brady Campaign, NRA, US PIRG, National Taxpayers' Union and others -- who've already published on TheChisel.com!

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor 



thechisel.com
Don't just vote, chisel!

How does it work?

USE THE PLATFORM IN TWO WAYS:

1) As Quill and Scroll chapters, you are encouraged to create a project that supports your community and the society's goals; proposing a solution to a community problem is a great way to do that.

2) As journalists, you have an ideal opportunity to use ChiselLabs' online platform to crowdsource, get feedback, and revise your ideas. Once you've gone through the publishing and feedback cycle on TheChisel.com, you can then start to plan coverage in your publication. Plus, TheChisel.com's fun tools guide you through the process of creating your own customized, visually-compelling proposal and URL, which you can share with the public and on social media.

What's in it for you?

PRIZES and INTERNSHIPS

We're offering to proposal-winning Quill and Scroll chapters

Amazon.com gift cards, which you can use to celebrate your successes or buy supplies for your chapter:

- The first three chapters to post proposals and add five substantive comments to others' proposals earn \$100 each;
- The proposal with the best visuals: \$100;
- The proposal with the most votes: \$100;
- The proposal with the best sourcing and documentation: \$100
- The best overall proposal: \$250; AND
- Two students will be eligible for Summer Internships with TheChisel.

What are the guidelines?

- Proposals must be complete and meaningful to be eligible.
- The best proposals will demonstrate multi-stakeholder perspectives, credibility, and rigorous analysis.
- A chapter may post as many proposals as it wishes.
- At least 10 eligible proposals from Quill and Scroll chapters must be submitted for prizes to be awarded.
- Together, TheChisel team of policy analysts, writers, and journalists, and Quill and Scroll's executive director will choose the winners.

How do we get started?

Check out the [great proposals](#) on TheChisel's website, created by public policy professionals and the public. Use these as models or inspiration! Maybe you want to start a recycling program in your high school? Reconstitute your student government by-laws? Change your school district's vacation policy? Or, go wider: propose a town-wide, statewide, or nationwide initiative!

Visit [ChiselLabs.com](#) and start thinking about a problem that needs to be solved. Then start developing a solution and begin doing the research needed for it, whether you choose to approach it as a chapter activity only, or whether you plan to produce journalism around the topic as well.

Did you say "webinar"?

To help you submit, elicit feedback for, and revise your proposals, we will conduct two live webinars introducing TheChisel. We will tape the sessions and make them available if you are unable to make the live sessions.

Webinars will be **Wednesday, Oct. 3**: 7 p.m. ET/6 p.m. CT/5 p.m. MT/4 p.m. PT. Let us know if that doesn't work for you, and we'll set up another meeting just for your chapter.

We encourage posting of draft proposals by **Nov. 4, 2018**. That will allow you adequate time to generate community feedback and voting, and to improve your proposal by the final **deadline date of Nov. 30, 2018**.

Each proposal will receive 20 minutes of personalized feedback from TheChisel professionals. This can be done via Skype or video conference.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Q&S Executive Director Jeff Browne at jeffrey-browne@uiowa.edu or to TheChisel's Deborah Devedjian at ddevedjian@thechisel.com.

“Freedom of speech is a principal pillar of a free government.”

Benjamin Franklin