

Initiation ceremonies

Quill and Scroll makes no requirement regarding the initiation of new members. This is left entirely to the local chapter. The initiation services contained in this chapter manual are suggested rituals that any chapter may use as printed or may revise to suit its particular situation.

We believe that a formal program carried out with dignity and meaning will help establish Quill and Scroll on a high level in any school. An impressive ceremony not only gives the individual candidate a sense of the importance of membership but also brings prestige to the organization within the school and the community.

Chapters may conduct initiations several times a year as candidates become eligible. Some chapters conduct initiations at the close of each semester. Others hold only one initiation in the spring as a part of the school's honor assembly program.

The initiation ceremony is not secret and may be conducted before the entire student body or held in connection with an annual publications banquet. Frequently chapter initiation programs are formal evening affairs with school officials, parents, professional journalists and prominent citizens as guests.

Although initiation ceremonies are optional with the local chapter, Quill and Scroll recommends that each chapter adopt some type of initiation that will be impressive, dignified and of lasting value to those who take part in it. Two suggested forms of initiation ceremonies are presented on the following pages. Chapters may select either form, or they may develop their own.

INITIATION RITUAL (1)

At the front of the hall where the initiation is to take place will be the adviser, the president of the local chapter, the secretary of the chapter and as many of the following people as space and scheduling will allow: the principal of the high school, the superintendent of schools and other chapter officers.

Secretary, president or principal. We are about to conduct an initiation of candidates for membership in Quill and Scroll, the International Honorary Society for High School Journalists. (Give full name of adviser), adviser of the work in journalism at (give full name of high school), will begin the ceremony by outlining the aims and the purpose of Quill and Scroll Society.

Adviser. (The speech of the adviser may include whatever he or she thinks is fitting, with reference to the work in journalism at the high school and to the reasons for placing a chapter there. The speech should end substantially as it is given here.) Quill and Scroll, the International Honorary

Society for High School Journalists, was founded at the University of Iowa, April 10, 1926, by a group of teachers of journalism who wished to recognize and to reward worthy high school journalists.

To become a member of the Society, a student must meet five qualifications: the initiate must be of freshman, sophomore, junior or senior classification; must be scholastically in the upper third of their high school class or have the equivalent of a 3.0 grade point average or be in the upper third of their class; must have done superior work in some phase of high school journalism; must be recommended by the adviser of journalistic work in their high school or by the committee governing publications and must be approved as being worthy of membership by the Society's associate director.

Quill and Scroll desires to make membership an honor in recognition of high school journalistic achievement. Today we are receiving (give number) candidates from (insert school name) into membership in the Society. As I read their names, will they please come forward and take their places facing the rostrum. (The candidates come forward and take their places facing the adviser with their backs to the assembly.)

Adviser. 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 industry.

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 judging and interpreting the events of the day.

In but a few years, this obligation of leadership will fall to you. Make certain that you are fully prepared and fully qualified to assume responsibility.

Adviser (or president). The badge of Quill and Scroll Society with which you are being entrusted is symbolic of the painstaking efforts of the scribes of old to record the events of their time in permanent form. We of today owe the same duty to posterity. Let the quill represent in your minds the meticulous care which must be put forth to turn thoughts into proper language; let the scroll represent the permanent quality of good writing.

Adviser (or president). It is now necessary for you, before being declared members of Quill and Scroll, and before receiving the Society's badge, to assume an obligation to the Society.

Adviser (or president). Do you solemnly pledge in the presence of these people here assembled that you will be true to the ideals of the Society? In

whatever field you choose to enter, will you always painstakingly seek the truth? Will you earnestly strive to aid the best interests of the community? Will you be faithful to your superiors and at all times be a reliable worker? Do you pledge to do all in your power to aid in the cause of better journalism? If you assume these responsibilities, answer, " I do." (Pause.)

Adviser (or president). By the authority vested in me by the international director, I hereby declare you members of Quill and Scroll Society, with all the rights, with all the privileges and with all the duties that pertain to membership in this Society. May you ever prove worthy of the faith the Society has shown in you today. I congratulate each of you on receiving this honor. As I call your names you will step forward and receive your badge of membership.

Initiates may receive their pins and membership cards from the principal, the adviser or the president of the chapter. Each initiate is extended congratulations with a handshake.

Presiding officer. This completes our initiation ceremony.

INITIATION RITUAL (2)

On a table is a single holder containing one large candle. Behind this is a candelabrum holding seven smaller candles. On the table in front of the candelabrum lies one white candle for each candidate to be initiated. Eight people who are to participate in the initiation form a semicircle behind the table, facing the audience, with the leader (or president or adviser) in the center. Candidates are seated facing the table. Battery powered candles can be used as substitutes.

The leader steps forward and says:

Leader. 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 and art departments of their high school publications, and whose scholarship places them in the upper third of their respective classes. Journalism is far reaching in its aims. Its followers carry obligations to Society, so tonight I light the candle of truth symbolic of our aims and aspirations for the world in which we live and that finer world of tomorrow toward which we strive. *(Leader lights single large candle which is symbolic of truth)*

Leader. I light the light of truth which signifies sincerity in character, action and speech. It should serve as a guiding light to which all 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 for journalistic ethics. Quill and Scroll desires to make membership an honor that will stand everywhere for the highest type 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 advisers. This light has spread to more than 15,000 chapters located in every state of the union and in more than 45 countries around the world.

From the candle of TRUTH, then, we will light our tapers of journalistic endeavor.

Second light *steps forward, picks up candle and lights it from Truth. Holds candle while talking. After finishing, places candle in candelabrum.*

From Truth, I light the candle of LEARNING.

Literature, history, music and the fine arts form a background that enriches life. For the reporter who is interpreting life in the light of modern

understanding it is absolutely essential to comprehend those things which have enriched life for people in times past.

Third light *steps forward, picks up candle and lights it from Truth. Holds candle while talking. After finishing, places candle in candelabrum.*

From Truth, I light the candle of LEADERSHIP.

It is necessary that those trained in journalistic work should be leaders themselves. They should, whether reporter, cartoonist, designer, writer, photographer, artist or editor, possess the personality to attract followers, to state facts clearly and concisely, to portray truth, to act wisely in times of stress and through it all to lead without dictating — to guide, but not to drive.

Fourth light *steps forward, picks up candle and lights it from Truth. Holds candle while talking. After finishing, places candle in candelabrum.*

From Truth, I light the candle of LOYALTY.

Loyalty is the essence of well-placed trust. People can betray their conscience, their friends, their employers and still be considered by the world at large as useful citizens. No one but you yourself can define your loyalty. Be loyal to your publication. Keep the confidence of those for whom you work.

Fifth light *steps forward, picks up candle and lights it from Truth. Holds candle while talking. After finishing, places candle in candelabrum.*

From Truth, I light the candle of INITIATIVE.

Without initiative people today would be in a state little better than savagery. The urge to push on; to try new experiments; to create new aims; to rise above the trivial, the sordid, and the common place has been bestowed on Society to lead individuals on to greater things.

Sixth light *steps forward, picks up candle and lights it from Truth. Holds candle while talking. After finishing, places candle in candelabrum.*

From the candle of truth, I light the candle of INTEGRITY.

Integrity is to a journalist what honor is to a soldier or probity is to a judge. A free press could not exist without this ingredient in the character of its editors and staffers. No director can assail a journalist's integrity, no venal politician can impugn it. It is inviolate and must be, if democracy is to survive and flourish and aid in freeing all persons from the shackles of ancient evils.

Seventh light *steps forward, picks up candle and lights it from Truth. Holds candle while talking. After finishing, places candle in candelabrum.*

From the candle of truth, I light the candle of JUDGMENT.

Learning and personal integrity are of little value to us if we lack good judgment. All journalists must possess sound judgment if their work and ideas are to serve their people and community properly and purposefully.

Eighth light *steps forward, picks up candle and lights it from Truth. Holds candle while talking. After finishing, places candle in candelabrum.*

From Truth, I light the candle of FRIENDSHIP.

Friendship is the link that binds humanity. But friendship must be fostered by understanding, by sympathy, by some kindred yearning that can withstand distrust and even betrayal. The journalist must be broad-minded enough to respect another's point of view even though it may differ from his or her own.

Perhaps the long dreamed-of world peace may be hastened by the student journalists of today, when tomorrow they assume the duties of leaders and meet their friends who are linked to them by the time honored symbol of the Quill and Scroll.

Secretary. Will those who are to be initiated please come forward as your names are called and form a semicircle facing the table?

Secretary calls the roll. When all have taken their places, the leader gives each a small white taper. The leader then says:

Leader. You who are to be initiated into the fellowship of Quill and Scroll will light your candles from the candle of truth, then resume your places in the semicircle.

Initiates step forward one at a time and light their tapers from the candle of truth, then resume their places in the semicircle.

Leader. You, as candidates, are ready to be welcomed into Quill and Scroll. Each of you has attained scholastic rank in the highest third of your class or have the equivalent of a 3.0 grade point average or in the upper third of your class; each of you has done superior work in some creative field; each of you has been recommended by the adviser of journalistic work in your high school; each of you has been approved by the associate director of the Society.

The badge of Quill and Scroll with which you are to be entrusted is symbolic of the painstaking efforts of the scribes of old to record the events and thoughts of their time in permanent form. We of today owe the same duty to prosperity. 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.

And now, as a token of your loyalty to Quill and Scroll, to which I welcome

you, will you raise your right hand and repeat after me this pledge:

I do pledge myself
To do all in my power
To work for the advancement of my community,
To be loyal to my superiors,
To live up to the ideals of true journalism,
And to be impartial in my interpretation of Truth.

You may extinguish your candles.

It is now my pleasure to welcome each of you to membership in the (school name or chapter name) Chapter of Quill and Scroll. In all of your endeavors, may you always hold high the light of Truth. As the secretary calls your name, please step forward to receive your badge of membership.

As the names are read, each candidate comes forward to receive his or her pin and membership card from the leader (or adviser), who congratulates each with a handshake.

This concludes the initiation ceremony.