**Athens Democracy Forum 2022**

**Student Delegate Application**

***Students should take their summer obligations, fall course load, and the number of days they will miss class (including travel days) into account in considering whether to apply. You are expected to be a full participant in all preparatory work (summer and Athens), the Forum, and post-Forum reporting and action steps. Student delegates may not arrive late or leave early.***

**PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM AS A WORD DOCUMENT – DO NOT CONVERT IT TO PDF**

**Demographic Information** (Please enter responses ***in*** the text boxes provided below; *DO NOT* delete the text box; just put the cursor in the text box and start typing!)

Name on Passport: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Gender[[1]](#footnote-1): Click or tap here to enter text.

Pronouns (optional): Click or tap here to enter text.

Preferred Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Nationality: Click or tap here to enter text.

Institution: Click or tap here to enter text.

Major Discipline(s): Click or tap here to enter text.

Month and Year of Graduation: Click or tap here to enter text.

Essay – Please enter your responses in the space following the essay prompts.

Part I: In 200 words or less, describe your thoughts on and experience with *one* of the following 2022 Forum topics (please delete the topic descriptions you are *not* responding to).

**Rethinking Work: Life in the Metaverse**

Long before the pandemic hit, the world of work was already undergoing a profound and irreversible transition, brought on by new technologies as well as migration, economic forces, and other factors. The latest innovations have promised to bring the virtual and real worlds even closer together, and tech firms have scurried to plant their flags first. Some of the changes are bound to benefit workers, bringing more flexibility and new opportunities. But how will complex issues like worker’s rights be tackled, and how will already vulnerable communities fare? Is the metaverse a way to navigate an increasingly fraught reality, or to escape it?

**Rethinking Media: Truth Sayers and Nay Sayers**

As disinformation runs rampant on social media, lawmakers and tech executives are locked in a battle over platforms’ responsibility, and how best to rein it in. But there is also a growing realization that one of the best antidotes may be the simplest: *true* information. Organizations like Reporters Without Borders and the new International Fund for Public Interest Media are pouring resources into supporting independent media around the world, and President Biden’s administration recently pledged up to $35 million for the same effort. How are the funders ensuring that this journalism meets minimum standards, and what are those standards? How can the outlets gain the public’s trust? Is it possible for independent media to beat back threats against democracy?

**Rethinking the Planet: Climate Change and Gender Inequalities**

According to the United Nations, women worldwide face greater risks from the climate disaster, as extreme conditions can lead to food shortages, poverty, and increased gender violence. At the same time, girls and young women in many regions are often not educated about the effects, and often women aren’t part of the decision-making process at the highest levels. Could examining the climate crisis through a feminist lens be one way to galvanize change?

**Rethinking Capitalism: Finance’s Big Bang**

It seems blockchain has hit a new high, with investors pouring more than $30 billion into cryptocurrency and blockchain startups last year. But more than an investment opportunity, many think of it as an entire ethos: pulling power away from a few massive firms and bringing it to the people. In this session, a blockchain evangelist and a more traditional investor debate the merits and drawbacks of decentralizing finance.

***Your response goes here!***

Part II: Review one resource from the Democracy and Culture Foundation’s extensive [Library of Democratic Content](https://www.democracyculturefoundation.org/library-of-democratic-content/). In less than 500 words, summarize what the author(s) had to say about an idea expressed in the resource, then either expand an action suggested by the author(s) or share an action you would suggest related to the idea. These could be actions taken by individuals, governments, NGOs, businesses, or other institutions in response to an issue.

***Your response goes here!***

Part III:  Moving from idea to action is an important element of our participation in this year’s Forum. In 200 words or less, tell us what concrete steps you can imagine taking when you return to campus to act on a Forum theme. We do not take this as a promise that you will carry out this particular set of steps, but we want to see your thinking on what you see as valuable and realistically achievable. This could include sharing your experience: with peers through classroom discussion, public talks, radio interviews, or articles in the campus newspaper; via participation in campus clubs and organizations; and/or through engagement around local/national elections, campus or community dialogues, or other programs of your design and implementation.

***Your response goes here!***

Part IV: In just a few sentences, how would participation in the Forum advance your post-graduate plans?

***Your response goes here!***

1. This field will be used to make rooming assignments in the dorm. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)