

## GUIDELINES: CONSTITUTION DAY ESSAY CONTEST

For students in grades 4-12 who reside in or attend school in Los Alamos County  
Deadline: 5:00 PM, Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Winners will be notified no later than September 25. (Winners also announced at: [constitutiondaycontest.com](http://constitutiondaycontest.com))

The Awards Ceremony will take place at the Constitution Day Dinner, October 1, 2022, at Cottonwood on the Greens, sponsored by the Republican Party of Los Alamos. Winners will be invited to bring one guest and attend the dinner at no cost. The winners will be invited, but not required, to read their essays at the dinner.

**Essay Guidelines:** The Constitution Day Essay Contest is designed to challenge students to learn more about the Constitution and to express original, thoughtful ideas in essay writing. Essays will be judged on how completely and clearly the ideas are stated and supported. Grammar, spelling and punctuation will also be considered.

**Grades 4-6:** Write an original essay of no more than 350 words.

Seeking to balance order with liberty, the Founding Fathers chose a federal system of government. Their goals were to avoid tyranny, to allow more participation in politics, and to allow the states to pass their own laws that could test new ideas and programs. Discuss how the system of federalism has been successful in promoting one of the goals. Support your ideas.

**Middle School:** Write an original essay of no more than 450 words.

Seeking to balance order with liberty, the Founding Fathers chose a federal system of government. Their goals were to avoid tyranny, to allow more participation in politics, and to allow the states to pass their own laws that could test new ideas and programs. Discuss how the system of federalism has been successful in promoting two of the goals. Support your ideas.

**High School:** Write an original essay of no more than 600 words.

Seeking to balance order with liberty, the Founding Fathers chose a federal system of government. Their goals were to avoid tyranny, to allow more participation in politics, and to allow the states to pass their own laws that could test new ideas and programs. Discuss how the system of federalism has been successful in promoting the three goals. Support your ideas.

Use a standard font no smaller than 12-point. If citing sources, use a common style. Citations do not count in the total word count.

1. Do not put your name or contact information on your essay pages.
2. Essays must be typed and double-spaced. Pages must be numbered and can be printed on two sides.
3. Complete the entry form. This should be the only place your name and contact information appear.
4. Do not fold your essay. Place the completed entry form and essay inside a large envelope and seal.
5. Write on the outside of the envelope your grade level as of August 10, 2022. No other writing should appear on the envelope.
6. Turn your entry in no later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 21, 2022.

Entries cannot be mailed, emailed or uploaded electronically. Place your entry envelope in the box marked "CONSTITUTION DAY ESSAY ENTRIES" at Aspen Copies, 1907 Central Avenue, Los Alamos. For questions or if you need assistance with printing or delivery of your entry, contact contest sponsors at [constitutiondayessaycontest@gmail.com](mailto:constitutiondayessaycontest@gmail.com). Entries that fail to follow the guidelines shall be disqualified.

Contest is sponsored by the Los Alamos Federated Republican Women.