

**VFW DISTRICT 2, DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
2026–2027 CONSOLIDATED STUDENT SUBMISSION FORM
Patriot’s Pen & Voice of Democracy**

2026–2027 Theme: “What a Veteran Taught Me About America”

Submission Deadline: October 31, 2026

1. CONTEST ENTERED

☐ **Patriot’s Pen** | Grades 6–8 | Written Essay

☐ **Voice of Democracy** | Grades 9–12 | Recorded Audio Essay

2. STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name: First _____ M.I. _____ Last _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____

Grade: _____ **Age:** _____ (*Voice of Democracy*)

School Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Teacher/Advisor Name: _____

Teacher/Advisor Email: _____

3. ENTRY INFORMATION

Patriot’s Pen Only

Essay Word Count: _____

Required submission:

☐ Typed essay attached

Voice of Democracy Only

Audio Length: _____ minutes _____ seconds

Required submission:

☐ Typed essay attached

☐ MP3 audio file attached/submitted

4. PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Required for all contestants, including contestants age 18 or older

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

5. STUDENT CERTIFICATION

I certify that the work submitted with this form is my original work and the product of my own thinking. I have not inappropriately used ChatGPT or another artificial-intelligence tool to create the content of my entry. I have entered this VFW competition through only one VFW Post during the 2026–2027 contest year. I understand that my entry must comply with all applicable VFW National rules and that an entry failing to meet those requirements may be disqualified.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

6. SUBMISSION CHECK

Patriot's Pen: Original typed essay, 300–400 words, with a maximum variance of five words. The essay must be anonymous and contain no contestant name, school name, address, or other identifying information.

Voice of Democracy: Original 3–5 minute audio essay, with a maximum variance of five seconds, recorded in the contestant's own voice in MP3 format, accompanied by a typed copy. No music, singing, poetry, sound effects, or video. Written and recorded material must remain anonymous.

7. SPONSORING VFW POST USE

VFW Post Name/Number: _____

Date Received: _____ **Received By:** _____

[☐] Complete [☐] Incomplete [☐] Eligible for Judging

Post Chair/POC: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

District 2 Control No.: _____