

2026 Wirt County Pioneer Days Essay Contest Rules and Topic Tips:

Open to Middle School students in Grades 5–8. Two winners will be chosen: one Grades 5–6 and one Grades 7–8. Each winner will receive a \$100 cash award on Pioneer Day, October 3, 2026, at 9:15 AM in the stage area by the WesBanco Parking Lot.

Rules for Participation:

1. **Essay Requirements:** Your essay must be at least 2 pages in length and must include references to 3 printed materials (such as books, newspapers, or magazines) and 2 internet articles that provide information on the Founding Fathers.
2. **Understand the Topic:** 250 years ago, the Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence leaving an impactful legacy on the United States of America. These men risked everything to build a new nation, uniting men from different colonies, backgrounds, and beliefs around a shared vision of liberty, rights, and a nation governed by its people. The fight for independence was fueled by a combination of political courage, philosophical conviction, and personal sacrifice.
3. **Topic Tips:** What motivated the Founding Fathers to pursue independence? Who were some of the key figures, and what roles did they play? What ideas or documents came out of this era, and why do they still matter today? What disagreements or challenges did the Founding Fathers face, and how did they work through them? What sacrifices did they make, and what qualities helped them succeed? What legacy have they left for America 250 years later?
4. **Start with a Strong Introduction:** Begin your essay with an introductory paragraph that clearly states the main idea or provides a personal statement about the Founding Fathers and the roles they played in forming a new nation (America).
5. **Organize Your Thoughts:** Outline your key ideas and arguments before drafting your essay to ensure a clear and logical flow of information.
6. **Conclude Effectively:** End your essay with a concluding paragraph that summarizes the key points you want to emphasize about the roles and legacy of the Founding Fathers.
7. **Submit:** Submit your completed essay to the Principal by the designated deadline.

Good luck to all participants, and we look forward to reading your essays on the topic of “Founding Fathers of America.”