

The American Legion Auxilliary's Americanism Essay Contest is for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs, divided into six classes. One award in each class will be presented in each division. Winners will receive a \$50 check and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Spirit of Youth Scholarship fund.

Essay Title:

***"Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the
Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom."***

Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement*
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs.	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

Essay Checklist:

- ☐ Class competing in _____
- ☐ Sponsoring ALA unit 1038 - Adolph Pfister
- ☐ Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- ☐ Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- ☐ Word count of essay _____
- ☐ Due date for student to return to ALA unit Friday, February 27, 2026

To be completed by the student and parent/guardian:

*** Please write legibly in ink.**

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

Student or Parent/Guardian E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name and Signature: _____

School Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2026

ESSAY CONTEST 2026

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1038 - Valhalla, NY

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade are divided into six classes. The contest begins with our local Unit, winners move on to compete with students across the state. Finally, the state winners compete nationally where the ALA has created five geographical divisions (eastern, southern, western, northwestern & central) and there is one award for each of the six classes.



Essay Theme:



Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who fought for our freedom.

ALA Class	School Grade Level	Essay Word Count
Class I	Grades 3 and 4	150-250 words
Class II	Grades 5 and 6	250-300 words
Class III	Grades 7 and 8	350-400 words
Class IV	Grades 9 and 10	450-500 words
Class V	Grades 11 and 12	450-500 words
Class VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level

Americanism Essay Contest Requirements

- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as the first page
- Adhere to word count for essay and list on cover sheet
- Parent's name and signature is required

Due Date: Friday, February 27, 2026

Submission of Essay:

The completed cover sheet with required signatures and typed essay can be emailed to:

ALAunit1038ny@gmail.com
RE: Americanism Essay Contest 2026

Winners:

- All contestants will receive an American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 1038 certificate of participation.
- ALA Unit 1038 will award a 1st place prize (\$50 gift card) to each class for the most compelling essay.
- Winners will then compete in the Westchester County American Legion Auxiliary competition if there are entries from other schools submitted in the same class. If there are no submissions from other Westchester County schools, the poster will automatically be entered into the American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York competition.
- The state winners compete in the national competition. National winners receive a citation, \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name is made to the *Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund*.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1038 Americanism Essay Contest Chair – Ms. Julie Chen
27 Legion Drive, Valhalla, NY 10595

