

Guidelines: Constitution Day Essay Contest 2019

Deadline: September 23, 2019

For students in grades 4-12 who reside in or attend school in Los Alamos County

The Awards Ceremony will take place on October 5, 2019, at the Constitution Day Dinner at Cottonwood on the Greens sponsored by the Republican Party of Los Alamos. Winners will be notified by September 25. Winners and one guest each are invited to attend the dinner at no cost. The winners will be invited, but not required, to read their essays at the dinner. Winners are not required to attend the event.

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 250 words answering this question: *After the Revolutionary War, the new nation looked for a way to effectively govern itself and produced the Articles of Confederation, the first constitution of the United States. Although the weaknesses of the agreement resulted in its replacement eight years later, the document had noble goals. Discuss what you think were two strengths of the Articles and support your answers.*

Middle School: Write an original essay of no more than 350 words answering this question: *After the Revolutionary War, the new nation looked for a way to effectively govern itself and produced the Articles of Confederation, the first constitution of the United States. Although the weaknesses of the agreement resulted in its replacement eight years later, the document had noble goals. Discuss what you think were three strengths of the Articles and support your answers.*

High School: Write an original essay of no less than 350 words and no more than 500 words answering this question: *After the Revolutionary War, the new nation looked for a way to effectively govern itself and produced the Articles of Confederation, the first constitution of the United States. The framers of the Articles decided not to include an executive branch or a federal court system. Why do you think the framers did this? Do you think this was a good idea or a bad idea? Support your answers.*

1. Do not put your name or contact information on your essay pages. The judging is blind.
2. Essays must be typed (not hand-written) and double-spaced. Pages must be numbered.
3. Complete the Entry Form. This should be the only place your name and contact information appear.
4. Do not fold your essay. Place 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 15, 2019. No other writing should appear on the envelope.
6. Turn in your entry beginning Sept. 11 and no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, Sept. 23. Entries cannot be mailed, emailed or uploaded electronically. Place your entry in the box marked "CONSTITUTION DAY ESSAY ENTRIES" at Aspen Copies, 1907 Central Ave., Los Alamos. Questions? Contact contest sponsors at: constitutiondayessaycontest@gmail.com.

Any entry that does not follow the above guidelines shall be disqualified. For more information or to download additional Entry Forms and Guidelines, go to: constitutiondaycontest.com.