

SAR Knight Essay Contest Rules

Students **MUST** follow the rules carefully. Essays submitted that do not adhere to the rules, will be disqualified.

1. ELIGIBILITY, SUBMISSION OF ESSAYS and DEADLINES.

This contest is open to all students who are United States citizens or legal resident aliens. Contestants shall be in the freshman, sophomore, junior or senior grade of high school study during the contest year and attending school, including accredited home schools.

The contest must be entered through a Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution near the student's residence. If the State does not have chapters or if the chapters are not participating, the contest may be entered at the State level.

- Essays must be submitted to your local SAR Chapter prior to December 31st. If students do not have a local SAR Chapter, they may submit to the **State Knight Essay Chairman**.
- The winning state entry will be submitted to the National Chairman no later than February 28th.

2. ESSAY SUBJECTS and RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS.

The topic of the essay shall deal with an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution. The essay must be based upon no less than five references, at least three of which must be published works. References to an encyclopedia or Internet websites are acceptable, but will not satisfy the requirement that at least three references be published works. If there are no published references, the essay will be disqualified. Plagiarism will be grounds for immediate disqualification.

3. ESSAY FORMAT REQUIREMENTS.

General Requirements: An original copy of the essay must be submitted. If submitted by mail, no bindings or special covers are allowed. Graphics are not permitted. The essay must be written in English. Specific Requirements: Each George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest entry must have four parts: (1) title page, (2) essay, (3) bibliography, and (4) contestant's biography, each of which is described in more detail below.

The title page, bibliography and contestant's biography must be on separate pages. In order to avoid bias, a blind-judging process is used, and the judges are provided with only the essay and bibliography pages. Therefore, no reference to the contestant's name or other identifying information may appear on the pages of essay or on the bibliography page. Contest entries that do not conform exactly to these requirements will be disqualified.

- **The title page** must include the title of the essay, applicant's name, applicant's school grade level, home address, telephone number, and email address. In addition, the title page must include the name, address, and telephone number of the high school in which the applicant is enrolled, and the applicant's grade level. Additionally, the title page must include the name, address, and telephone number of the school in which the contestant is enrolled along with a statement of how the applicant learned of the contest. If the entrant learned of the Knight

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Essay Contest through the Internet, include the URL of the website. This page is separated from the essay for judging purposes.

- **The essay** must have a minimum of **800 words and not exceed 1,200 words** (excluding the title page, footnotes, bibliography page, and biography page). Word counts based on a word processor are acceptable. All contest entries must be submitted as PDF files attached to emails. Contest entries submitted in any other format will be disqualified.

The first page of the Essay must include the title of the essay. (No contestant information must appear on these pages as they are separated and distributed to the judges for grading to prevent possible grading bias.)

The essay must be typed double-spaced on white bond paper. No bindings or special covers are needed. Graphics are not permitted. An original copy of the essay must be submitted. Poor quality copies will not be accepted. Plagiarism will be grounds for immediate disqualification. The essay must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font. Please use 8½" x 11" paper and 1-inch margins on all sides. The essay's pages, which shall include the bibliography page, must be sequentially numbered beginning with the first page of the essay as page 1. No contestant information may appear on the pages of the essay or bibliography.

- **The bibliography** must be documented in accordance with the Modern Language Association publication, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* or Kate L. Turabian's publication, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Students must source at least five references with the minimum of three being book sources.

References from Encyclopedias or Internet sites will be accepted, but are not considered as part of the three source references. The use of all electronic sources will cause the essay to be disqualified.

Citations in the essay and references in the bibliography must be documented in accordance with a widely used and publicly available citation system. Examples of a citation system include the Chicago Manual of Style, the MLA Manual of Style, the MHRA Style Guide, The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, and "Harvard referencing." The bibliography page must specify the system used. No contestant information may appear on the bibliography page(s).

- **The contestant's biography** is limited to one page and must include information regarding the contestant's academic awards and achievements, school activities, community activities, and plans for college. This page is separated from the essay and bibliography for judging purposes.

4. JUDGING CRITERIA.

Essays that meet the above criteria will be accepted and judged on the following equally weighted criteria:

- Historical accuracy.
- Clarity of thought.

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- Organization and proven topic.
- Grammar and spelling.
- Documentation.

5. AWARDS.

Chapter awards vary. Please contact the Chapter for more information.

Washington State 1st place winner receives \$500.

The National Society awards are as follows:

- First place: \$5,000; a medal with a recognition certificate; up to \$500 toward travel expenses; and a one-night hotel stay for the winner and a chaperone at the SAR Annual Congress.
- Second Place: \$2,500 and a recognition certificate.
- Third Place: \$1,000 and a recognition certificate.

6. PUBLICATION and ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS.

The national winning essay will be submitted for publication in The SAR Magazine. Participants in this contest agree that their essay may be published in The SAR Magazine and on the NSSAR Knight Essay Contest webpage. Winning essay participants, on all levels, may be required to supply a tax identification number in order to receive their award. By entering this contest, all participants agree that if their essay is chosen as the National winning essay will be the property of NSSAR. All participants further agree further agree that the National winning essay may not be submitted to any other contest or used for any other purpose without the express permission of the NSSAR Knight Essay Contest Chairman.

7. NSSAR DECISIONS ARE FINAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO REVIEW.

Participants in this contest agree that the interpretation of the rules and decisions of the National Chairman and its judges must govern without reservation and that decisions of the judges and/or the National Chairman are final.