

Self-Administered Checklist for SAR Knight Essay Contest

The following is a self-administered checklist for applicants before entering their essay into the SAR Knight Essay Competition. The official rules are whatever is in the National SAR web site at <https://www.sar.org/education/youth-contests->

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Item Check	Knight Essay Contest Rules
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible? U.S. Citizen? Attending school? Currently in 9 th through 12 th grade?	This contest is open to all students who are United States citizens or legal aliens. Contestants shall be attending public, parochial, or private high schools (including accredited home schools). Contestants shall be in the freshman, sophomore, junior or senior grade of high school study during the contest year.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Found a Chapter to enter through? Or through the State?	The contest must be entered through a Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution near the student's residence. In some cases, the contest may be entered at the State level (if the State does not have a chapter in your area or the chapters are not participating). Only one entry per student is permitted per contest year.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Know the Chapter's Deadline ?	The Chapter deadline may vary chapter to chapter, so please Check the deadline dates with your with your local Chapter contact. (In WA, see https://www.wassartoday.org/wassar-chapters.html)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does your Essay Topic match up with one of the six (6) approved?	The contest is for an original researched and proven topic written in English. 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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Understand the references requirement ? Have you met it?	Students must source at least five (5) references with the minimum of three being published book sources to allow for verification of sources if necessary. References from Encyclopedias or Internet sites will be accepted, but are not considered as part of the three published book sources . If there are no book sources (i.e., all are from encyclopedias or internet sources) the essay will be disqualified .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Understand how the essay is to be divided ? Have you met it?	The essay must have must four parts: 1) title page, 2) essay pages, 3) bibliography (works cited), and 4) contestant's biography. Please follow these rules exactly. Essays that do not conform to the rules may be immediately disqualified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Understand the need to separate title page, Bibliography and Biography?	The title page, bibliography and contestant's biography must be listed on separate pages. Essays that do not conform to the rules may be immediately disqualified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Understand the need for anonymity of essay? Is your name anywhere?	No reference to the contestant's name or information can be part of the Essay pages or Bibliography. (No contestant information must appear on these pages as they are separated and distributed to the judges for grading to prevent possible grading bias.) Essays that do not conform to the rules may be immediately disqualified.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Understand what needs to be on the title page ? Did you Include every item?	The title page must include the title of the essay, contestant's name, address, telephone number, and email address (if available). In addition, the title page must include the name, address, and telephone number of the high school in which the contestant is enrolled, and the contestant's grade level.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Understand how many words ? How to count pages ? First page special? Comply?	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. 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.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Understand how to prepare finished product?	The essay must be typed double-spaced on white bond paper. No bindings or special covers are needed. Graphics are not permitted.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Understand need for originality of essay? Is it all your work?	An original copy of the essay must be submitted. Poor quality copies will not be accepted. Plagiarism will be grounds for immediate disqualification.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you follow the formal rules for a research / term paper?	The essay and bibliography must be documented in accordance with the Modern Language Association publication, MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (see https://www.mla.org/) or Kate L. Turabian's publication, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is Biography one (1) page? Includes every item?	The contestant's biography s limited to one page. Topics to be included in the biography are academic awards and achievements, school activities, community activities, and plans for college.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Know <u>your</u> Deadline ? Understand the Deadline to the Chapter and the Deadline to the State are different?	Entries must be submitted to the Chapter/State by the deadline (usually by December 31 each year). The students must send their essay to the Chapter or State chairman appropriate for Washington State that are listed on the States Contact page of the National SAR Essay Website. (see https://www.sar.org/education/youth-contests-awards/george-s-stella-m-knight-essay-contest). [WA SAR at https://www.wassartoday.org/knight-essay-contest.html]
<input type="checkbox"/>	Know criteria on how your essay will be judged ?	Essay which meet the criteria in Rules above will be accepted and judged equally on the following criteria: a. Historical accuracy. b. Clarity of thought. c. Organization and proven topic. d. Grammar and spelling. e. Documentation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	GOOD LUCK!	The Washington Society of the Sons of the American Revolution