

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
AMERICAN HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST 2026–2027
 (This information is for chapter and school use)

ALL ESSAYS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

TOPIC:	“To announce independence from Great Britain, the Declaration of Independence was publicly read in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. Following this reading, the word spread throughout the colonies in newspapers, more public readings, and posted notices. Imagine you lived in Philadelphia or an area of the colonies where news did not reach you for weeks. How would you react to hearing the Declaration read in your community? With whom would you share the news? What action would you take after hearing it? How would this have impacted your life?”
PARTICIPANTS:	All grade 5, 6, 7, and 8 students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are home schoolers, are eligible. An individual student may submit an entry directly to a DAR chapter in their own state if their class or school is not participating. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex, or national origin. DO NOT SUBMIT A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH WITH ENTRY.
LENGTH:	Grade 5: 300–600 words Grades 6, 7, and 8: 600–1,000 words
FORM:	Essay is to be prepared on a computer, using black type in a non-script font no smaller than 12 point or larger than 14 point. A limited vision student may use Braille, a tape recorder, or very large type. A written transcript must be included, as well as a teacher’s or physician’s letter attesting to the student’s special need. Please note that the entire essay must be the student’s original work. This includes all research, writing, and editing, which must be done by the student themselves and not by a parent, teacher, tutor, AI, or other helper. Each essay must include a completed Title page. AHC-1008
RESOURCES:	Essay must have a list of all resources utilized. Four individual resources are expected. Internet resources, if used, should include the electronic address. ** <u>Any essay with information copied directly from sources without using quotes (plagiarized) will be disqualified.</u> **
JUDGING AND AWARDS:	Judging will be based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of material, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, and that it is the student’s own work. Pictures, maps, drawings, graphics, and other such additions <i>will not</i> be considered in judging and should not be included. Judging at the chapter level is by three judges, including at least two non-DAR judges. Judging at other levels is by three judges, all of whom are non-DAR members. CHAPTER: One essay at each grade level is selected as the chapter winner and forwarded to the state American History chair for state competition or to district/region first. American History essay contest chapter winner certificates and bronze medals may be presented by the chapter if desired. In addition, chapters may present certificates of participation to every student who participates in the essay contest. STATE: One essay at each grade level is selected as the state winner and forwarded to the appropriate national division vice chair of American History for division competition. The state winner receives a silver medal and state winner certificate. DIVISION: One essay in each grade is selected as the division winner and forwarded for national competition to the national vice chair. Division winners are presented a division winner certificate and a blue ribbon. NATIONAL: First, second, and third place winners are selected at the national level. A certificate, gold pin, and monetary award are presented to the national first place winner at Continental Congress. Winning essays (or videos) may appear in official DAR communications. The national second and third place winners receive a certificate and a monetary award. Note: All essays must be submitted to a local chapter electronically by a teacher, school or individual student. Essays sent directly to the national chair or vice chair of the essay contest will not be considered.
DEADLINE:	Chapter chairs should determine date for teachers, schools or individual students to forward essays to them to the chapter chair to allow for judging to be completed prior to state deadline. <i>States with district level judging should set appropriate intermediate deadlines. Date assigned:</i>

NAME, EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER OF CHAPTER CONTACT PERSON _____

NAME OF SPONSORING DAR CHAPTER _____

If additional information about the contest is needed, please contact the Office of the Historian General, NSDAR, at
 1776 D Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006–5303 Phone: (202) 879–3256