

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST RULES

The Americanism Essay Contest was created to teach students the value of patriotism and what it means to be an American. Thousands of students participate in the program each year. It helps them learn about patriotism plus promotes a lifelong respect for our flag and country.

Each year's essay contest has a different theme. All students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs, can enter the contest. As they are writing their essay, they will also discover more about the fundamental rights and freedoms we enjoy today. It can give them better insights into what our Veterans have done for us in the past and for what they are still doing for us today.

This year's Americanism Essay Contest Theme:

"HOW CAN YOU BE A BEACON OF LIGHT FOR OUR VETERANS?"

March 15th, 2027, is the due date for all entries to the Department of Wisconsin Americanism Essay Contest.

1. The Americanism Essay Contest cover sheet must be filled out **legibly** and **completely**. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
2. Student or Parent/Guardian contact information is required in order to notify winners.
3. Essays received after the contest deadline will not be accepted.
4. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of an essay, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and writing published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.
5. The essay shall be the work of only one individual.
6. Use of AI in writing essays is not allowed. Essays will be checked for use of AI. Any essay determined to be 30% or more AI written will be disqualified.

The decision of the judges shall be final. Use the essay checklist and make sure you complete the 2027 essay cover sheet. The name and signature of the teacher may be signed by the parent for home school students or by the unit president if the essay was a project for our Junior members.

All winning entries from each school or organization should be sent to the Department of Wisconsin Americanism Chair, Delores Woolf at the following address:
390 South Court, Platteville WI 53818

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2027 SUBMISSION FORM

Essay Title: "How can you be a beacon of light for our Veterans."

Department: 1st place winning entry in each class will receive \$50 from Department and will be forwarded to Central Division for further competition. 2nd place winning entry in each class will receive \$25 from Department and 3rd through 5th place winning entries in each class will receive \$10.

National: One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Spirit of Youth Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org after Convention.

Materials and Guidelines: The contest shall include six 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

Essay Checklist:

- ☐ Class competing in _____
- ☐ Sponsoring ALA Unit _____
- ☐ 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 _____

***Note: Checks are sent directly to awarded students. Please print student's name and mailing address clearly.**

To be completed by the student and parent/guardian:

Student name: _____ Grade level: _____ Word Count: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address (City/State/Zip): _____

Student or Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Parent's Phone #: _____ Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

School Name: _____

Teacher's name: _____

School (City/State/Zip): _____

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

Sponsoring Unit City location & number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chair: _____

Unit Winner due to Department Chair on March 15, 2027

Department: WI Signature of Department Chair: _____

Send to: Delores Woolf, 390 South Court Street, Platteville WI 53818