



2026 Constitution Essay Contest Entry Form

September 17, 2025, marks the 239th Anniversary of the signing of the American Constitution. In recognition of this important event, we cordially invite you to participate in Solano County's **Fifteenth Annual** Constitution Essay Contest

CONTEST IS OPEN TO ALL SOLANO COUNTY STUDENTS IN GRADES 10 – 12!

- * **GRAND PRIZE AWARD:** \$1,000.00 MINI-GRANT
- * **FOUNDERS' CHOICE AWARDS:** \$500.00 MINI-GRANTS AS MERITED
- * **BEST-OF-SCHOOL AWARDS:** \$100.00 MINI-GRANTS PRESENTED TO ONE STUDENT FROM EVERY SCHOOL SUBMITTING 30+ STUDENT ESSAYS

Awards will be presented at the Awards Presentation Luncheon, on Saturday, November 14th at 11:30 am in Fairfield - location TBD. Complimentary luncheon for Award Recipients, their parents, teachers, superintendents, board members, community leaders will be provided by the Solano Constitution Discussion Group, and additional sponsors of the annual essay contest.

2025 Constitution Essay Contest Topic & Eligibility Rules



ESSAY TOPIC:

What is a republic, and Why did the Founders choose it?

Who is Eligible? Solano County students, grades 10 – 12 currently enrolled in public, private, or home-schooled within Solano County.

CONTEST RULES:



1. Essay must be five hundred words or less and include a “Title” reflecting Your Main Idea

2. Entry must be an original work (not plagiarized) or previously appeared in any medium. For this reason, all references are limited to original source material. Each writer must conduct their own analysis of all source material. AI is prohibited in the writing of your essay.

Essay Contest Disclaimer: Due to the proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI) essay generation, the top three essay entrants of each category (Grand Prize, Founders Choice Award and Best of School Award) with their parent/guardian, should be prepared to answer a few questions concerning your essay from our judges via a 5-minute video call. Responses may be utilized in determining the final winners. This additional step in the judging criteria ensures the Solano CDG board acts as good stewards of our citizen donors.

All submitted essays must be the original work of the contestant. Each essay will be vetted to determine if artificial intelligence (AI) has been used, in part or in whole, to create the essay. Any essay determined to be the product of artificial intelligence will be disqualified. Such determination shall be at the sole discretion and final decision of the judge’s committee.

***Entrants who are unable or unwilling to conduct the verbal portion of the judging criteria will be disqualified.**

3. Entries will be judged primarily on the strength of the content (however, poor grammar, punctuation, spelling will not help your chances.) Any quotations or copyright material used in the essay must be properly identified either at the end of the page with sources listed as they appear or footnoted in the body of the essay with a single resource list following your essay. **As noted above,** verbal interviews may be conducted of the top three written submissions for each category – Grand Prize, Founder’s Choice Award and Best of School Award to demonstrate the entrant’s knowledge of the work submitted.

4. Completed essays are to be submitted in either Word or PDF format via e-mail to: info@solanocdg.org and must include the following sworn statement and information:

“I certify that I am a student at _____ in the _____ grade and that I am the sole author of this submission.”

The sworn statement must also include: Your Full Name, Your Teacher's Name and Email Address.

*** Please CC your teacher as proof that you have entered the contest.**

5. Entry Deadline: **All entries must be submitted by NOON, Friday, October 23, 2026.**

6. Entries not meeting these submission guidelines will be automatically disqualified.

7. No entry fee is required.

8. Award decisions are at the sole discretion of the judges.

9. Award recipients will be notified by email, and/or through your teacher.

Questions about the contest? Please Contact: info@solanocdg.org