

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST – 2026-2027

The American Legion Auxiliary, Unit #_____, of _____wishes to encourage students, grades 3 through 12, to participate in an Americanism Essay Contest. Each year the National American Legion Auxiliary chooses an Americanism subject for this contest. Essays are judged on the local level, sent on to state for judging, then to Division, and finally to National. The local level for American Legion Auxiliary includes the school districts, plus private schools), and any Home Schoolers in the mentioned school districts. The Americanism Essay contest is divided into 6 classes covering 10 grade levels. The following information pertains to this year's contest.

TITLE: “ How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans ? ”

CLASS I	Grades 3 and 4	150-250 Words
CLASS II	Grades 5 and 6	250-300 Words
CLASS III	Grades 7 and 8	350-400 Words
CLASS IV	Grades 9 and 10	450-500 Words
CLASS V	Grades 11 and 12	450-500 Words
CLASS VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

SPONSOR: UNIT NAME, CONTACT AND PHONE #

REQUIREMENTS

FORM: Essays should be typed for final judging using 12 point arial or times new roman font. Essays should have a 1" margin on all sides. Even though cover sheet is used, students should print or sign name on last sheet. Enclosed cover sheet must be used as first page of each essay; be sure to complete the cover sheet with proper information and teacher's signature.

Please note: The Student's mailing address is necessary as National sends awards directly to the student.

JUDGING: Essays will be judged on grammar, spelling, content, and following directions (please note requirements). We ask each school to set their own deadline to allow time for them to judge essays and submit the **top 5 from each class** for final judging by Unit _____. This method of having the essays pre-judged should allow for the students to make any necessary corrections to grammar and spelling prior to the final judging by the Auxiliary. Essays created using AI will be disqualified from the contest. **Selected essays must be sent to reach the Unit Chairman by (Unit Chairman can pick-up Essays from the School, or District Office, if contacted in advance).** If you would like a rubric for the essay, please see the *Americanism Essay Rubric*.

Teachers: Please remember to provide the total number of participants.

AWARDS: Awards will vary for each Unit.

Department awards are given out for each class
National Divisional level winner in each of the 6 classes will receive \$50 and a \$50 honorarium in the student's name to the National Presidents' Children of Warriors Scholarship Fund.