

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

2026–2027 American History Essay Contest

Information for Chapter & School Use

ALL ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

TOPIC (2026–2027):

"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 students in **grades 5, 6, 7, and 8** in public, private, or parochial schools, or those who are homeschooled, are eligible. Individual students may submit directly to a DAR chapter if their school is not participating. This contest is conducted **without regard to race, religion, sex, or national origin**. **Do not submit a student photograph with the entry.**

LENGTH REQUIREMENTS:

- **Grade 5:** 300–600 words
- **Grades 6–8:** 600–1,000 words

FORM REQUIREMENTS:

- Typed on a computer
- Black, non-script font, **12–14 point**
- Entire essay must be the **student's original work** — research, writing, and editing must be done **only by the student**, not by parents, teachers, tutors, AI, or other helpers
- A completed **Title Page (AHC-1008)** must be included

Students with limited vision may use Braille, a tape recorder, or very large type. A written transcript and a teacher's or physician's letter must accompany these entries.

RESOURCES:

- A list of **at least four resources** is required
- Internet sources must include full electronic addresses
- Essays containing **plagiarized content** will be disqualified

JUDGING & AWARDS:

Judging is based on:

- Historical accuracy
- Adherence to topic
- Organization
- Interest
- Originality
- Spelling & grammar
- Student's own work

Pictures, maps, drawings, graphics, and similar additions **must not** be included.

Chapter Level: One winner per grade is selected and forwarded to the state chair. Chapters may award certificates, bronze medals, and participation certificates. Chapters must have 3 judges, only one of whom may be a member of the DAR.

State Level: One winner per grade is forwarded to the national division. State winners receive a **silver medal** and certificate.

Division Level: One winner per grade is forwarded to national competition. Division winners receive a certificate and **blue ribbon**.

National Level: First, second, and third place winners are selected. The national first-place winner receives a **certificate, gold pin, and monetary award** at Continental Congress. Winning essays may appear in official DAR communications.

SUBMISSION & DEADLINES:

All essays must be submitted **electronically** to the local DAR chapter. Essays sent directly to national will **not** be considered.

Chapter Deadline: Chapters set their own deadline to allow judging before the state deadline.

State Deadline: **December 15, 2026.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Julia Gates

William Henshaw Chapter

State American History Chair

Email: juliagatesdar@gmail.com

Phone: [304-261-2706](tel:304-261-2706)

For Additional Information:

<https://www.dar.org/members/committees/service-committees/american-history/committee-purpose>

2026–2027 Patriots of the American Revolution Essay Contest

Information for Chapter & School Use

ALL ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

TOPIC (2026–2027):

Select a figure from the era of the American Revolution (1773-1783). Discuss how he or she influenced the course of the American Revolution, who he or she was and his/her contribution to the founding of a new nation. Figures may be any person, whether a well-known figure or an everyday man, woman, or child who supported the American Revolution in ways large or small.

PARTICIPANTS:

All students in **grades 9, 10, 11, and 12** students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are home schoolers, are eligible. Individual students may submit directly to a DAR chapter if their school is not participating. This contest is conducted **without regard to race, religion, sex, or national origin**. **Do not submit a student photograph with the entry.**

LENGTH REQUIREMENTS:

- 800 – 1,200 words

FORM REQUIREMENTS:

- Typed on a computer
- Black, non-script font, **12–14 point**
- Entire essay must be the **student's original work** — research, writing, and editing must be done **only by the student**, not by parents, teachers, tutors, AI, or other helpers
- A completed **Title Page (AHC-1008)** must be included

Students with limited vision may use Braille, a tape recorder, or very large type. A written transcript and a teacher's or physician's letter must accompany these entries.

RESOURCES:

- A list of **at least four resources** is required including both primary and secondary
- Internet sources must include full electronic addresses
- Essays containing **plagiarized content** will be disqualified

JUDGING & AWARDS:

Judging is based on:

- Historical accuracy
- Adherence to topic
- Organization
- Interest
- Originality
- Spelling & grammar
- Student's own work

Pictures, maps, drawings, graphics, and similar additions **must not** be included.

Chapter Level: One winner per grade is selected and forwarded to the state chair. Chapters may award certificates, bronze medals, and participation certificates. Chapters must have 3 judges, only one of whom may be a member of the DAR.

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Information on the Video Contest will come soon.