

# RENDEZVOUS WITH HISTORY

## HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST RULES

### STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

- All high school juniors are eligible to participate in the contest.

### ESSAY TOPIC

- The essay must be about an event or individual in United States History which the student believes exemplifies the quotation from either Franklin or Eleanor Roosevelt.
- Students, as this is a history essay and not a current events essay, please limit your topic selection to the period between 1776 and 2008. However, in your concluding paragraph please explain how and in what ways you believe your research subject to be relevant to life in the United States in 2021-2022.
- While students are permitted to write essays about Franklin or Eleanor Roosevelt, or events or individuals from the times in which they lived, essays about *other* events and individuals, from any *other* era in United States History are very strongly welcomed, very highly encouraged and will be looked upon by contest judges equally favorably.

### ESSAY STYLE AND STRUCTURE

- The essay must be the student's original work.
- Essays must be at least 750 words in length and cannot exceed 1,250 words. Essays outside these guidelines will be disqualified.
- The essay should be well researched, historically accurate and should reveal a clear understanding of the connection between the subject matter the student has chosen and the spirit and substance of the quotation the student is responding to.
- The author should demonstrate the ability to effectively utilize evidence in support of an argument.
- A minimum of six authoritative and credible sources should be used. While no specific number of each is required, both primary and secondary sources should be cited in the essay.
- The essay should contain an introduction with an effective thesis, several body paragraphs, each with a suitable topic sentence and a proper conclusion.
- Stylistically, the essay should be well written and carefully proofread for grammar, vocabulary, punctuation and spelling.
- A proper bibliography, using MLA citations for at least six sources, must be submitted with the essay or the essay will not be read.
- Citations in the form of footnotes should appear in the essay. The citations will not be considered part of the essay word count.

### SPONSORING TEACHER

- Every student must work with a sponsoring teacher. The sponsoring teacher need not be that student's junior year United States history teacher but must be a teacher presently employed by the school the student attends. The sponsoring teacher is expected to provide active guidance, advice and feedback on topic selection and on the style, structure and content of the student's essay.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- The essay must be submitted no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. No essays submitted after May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 will be accepted or reviewed.
- First, second and third prize winners, and sponsoring teachers, will be notified by email by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### HOW TO SUBMIT THE ESSAY

- The essay should be submitted by email to [Jeffrey.urbin@nara.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.urbin@nara.gov). It must be submitted in Microsoft Word format and attached to the email.
- The subject line of the email containing the essay should be “RENDEZVOUS WITH HISTORY High School Essay Contest.”
- The full name of the student, the full name of the sponsoring teacher, the name of the high school and of the town in which the high school is located must be contained in [but not attached to] the body of the email.
- Essays, once collected, will be distributed to judges who, to ensure the integrity of the contest, will not have any information about the author of the essay they are reading.

### PRIZE MONEY

- The contest will award \$1,000 in prize money for first prize, \$500 each for second prize, and \$250 for the third prize winner. The first prize winner, their parents and their sponsoring teacher will be invited to spend the day visiting Hyde Park and having lunch as guests of the FDR Library.

### QUESTIONS

- Please direct any questions about the contest to Jeffrey Urbin, Education Specialist at the FDR Library, at [Jeffrey.urbin@nara.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.urbin@nara.gov).