



Virginia House of Delegates Essay Contest 2008-2009 School Year

Statewide Essay Contest for All High School Juniors

The Virginia House of Delegates is pleased to announce its sixth annual statewide essay contest open to high school juniors. The goal is to provide students with an opportunity to conduct research and share their opinions on a topic that is related to Virginia's rich heritage.

Essay Topic

Students will write on the following topic:

On July 21, 2008, the Capitol Square Civil Rights Memorial at the Virginia State Capitol was dedicated in honor of the 1951 Robert R. Moton High School Protest, led by 16-year-old Barbara Johns. This protest led to the case of *Brown V. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, and the resulting Supreme Court decision in 1954 struck down the "separate but equal" racial doctrine that governed school policy. It was a victory for all those involved in the struggle for full civil rights. However, this decision was only the beginning of a long struggle against "massive resistance" and toward racial integration that would eventually bring dramatic and positive societal change to Virginia and to the rest of the country.

What civil rights challenges do local and global communities continue to face, and how can today's youth be involved in the advancement of modern day civil rights movements?

SOLs: CE.2b, CE.3b, GOVT.3a-e, GOVT.6f, GOVT.11a-e, USII.3c, USII.7d, VUS.7c, VUS.8c, VUS.13a-b

Essay Rules

1. The essay must reflect the student's own research, writing, and original thinking.
2. Each student must complete and attach the Entry Form with their essay, which will serve as the title page.
3. Essays must be typed in Times New Roman, 12 point font, with a minimum of three (3) double-spaced, single-sided, numbered pages with one-inch margins. A title page and bibliography are required but are not included in the three page minimum. Graphics are not permitted.
4. The essay title, but NOT the student's name, MUST appear on the top of the first page of the essay.
5. Students must source at least four (4) references with the minimum of two (2) being published book sources to allow for verification of sources if necessary. References from encyclopedias or internet sites will be accepted, but are not considered as part of the two published book sources. If there are no book sources the essay will be disqualified.
6. The essay and bibliography must be documented in accordance with the Modern Language Association publication, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* or Kate L. Turabian's publication, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Students may also use NoodleBib Express <http://www.noodletools.com/login.php> to compose source citations.
7. Entries must be received by December 1, 2008.
8. Essays which meet the above rules will be accepted and judged equally on the following criteria:
 - a) Clarity of thought
 - b) Organization and proven topic
 - c) Historical accuracy
 - d) Grammar and spelling
 - e) Documentation

Prize Details

One winner will be selected and will be invited to spend one day at the Virginia State Capitol during the 2009 Session with his/her representative in the Virginia House of Delegates. The winner will also be presented with a \$500 United States Savings Bond and a framed certificate on the floor of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Travel arrangements and accommodations for the winning student and their parent(s) or guardian(s) will be made and provided by the House of Delegates Clerk's Office.



Shown above is Delegate James P. Massie, III congratulating last year's Essay Contest winner, Miss Molly Ma from Mills E. Godwin High School in Richmond, VA. Ms. Ma is accompanied by her father, Mr. Eric Ma.



The Virginia Civil Rights Memorial is located at Capitol Square and honors Virginians who were active in the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and 1960s.

Legislative Education and Development (LEAD) Office
House of Delegates, P.O. Box 406 • Richmond, Virginia 23218
(804) 698-1500 or Toll Free 1-877-391-FACT • LEAD@house.state.va.us

Bruce F. Jamerson, Clerk of the House of Delegates



Virginia House of Delegates Essay Contest 2008-2009 School Year

Entry Form

Student's Name _____

School _____

Home Address _____

City/Zip _____

Essay Title _____

By entering the **Virginia House of Delegates Essay Contest**, I give permission for the Virginia House of Delegates to use this work as it wishes, including (but not limited to) display, promotion, reproduction, and distribution in all media and the right to create, perform, display, and distribute derivative works. I also give them the right to use the entrant's name, likeness, and biographical material in connection with the work.

I release the Virginia House of Delegates, officers, directors, employees, licensees, and successors from any liability or claimed liability in connection with this entry.

I acknowledge that I have read this consent and release prior to signing it and that I understand its contents. I warrant that this child alone has written the essay being entered.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Printed Name _____

Date _____

If different than child's address above:

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Home Phone () _____

Work Phone () _____

If this is a school-related entry, the following must be completed:

I have read the enclosed essay and verify that it reflects the above-named student's original work.

Signature of Sponsoring Teacher _____

Printed Name _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

City/Zip _____

School Phone () _____

Deadline for receipt of entries is December 1, 2008! Each entry MUST have an Entry Form.

Mail to:

"Attention Essay Contest"
Legislative Education and Development (LEAD) Office
Virginia House of Delegates
P.O. Box 406
Richmond, VA 23218

Fax to:

"Attention Essay Contest"
Legislative Education and Development (LEAD) Office
804-786-3215

Email to:

"Attention Essay Contest"
LEAD@house.state.va.us
Word or PDF files only