

**The Daughters of the American Revolution  
American History Essay Contest**

# Enjoying a New Kind of Tea Party!

In the 1770's there was a movement of protest from the Colonists against the British due to taxes and laws. Along the eastern coast a growing number of patriots held "tea" parties. The Boston Tea Party was on December 16, 1773, and the Charlestown, SC Tea Party and the Chester Town Tea Party followed in 1774. In October 1774, 51 women in Edenton, North Carolina, decided to refuse to buy tea from the British because of their high taxes and laws. In 1775, women in Wilmington, North Carolina, burned their tea for the same reasons.

**Imagine you are one of these women boldly participating in one of these Tea Parties in North Carolina. Give details of either the Edenton Tea Party or Wilmington Tea Party, describe the tea party, and why you would choose to join them. Then explain if you think it was a good decision.**

Judging will be based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of material, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, and that it is the student's own work.

Grade 5: 300–600 words  
Grades 6, 7, and 8: 600–1,000 words  
Chapter, State, Division and National  
Winners by grade level.



**Learn More!**

Deadline for submission: November 30, 2024

The DAR, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.

[www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)  
[www.tucson.arizonadar.org](http://www.tucson.arizonadar.org)



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# Educational Programs

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## American History Essay Contest

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This contest was established to encourage young people to think creatively about our nation's great history and learn about history in a new light. Each academic year, a unique essay topic is chosen and guidelines are made available.

- The contest is open to all students in grades 5-8.
- Essays are judged for historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of materials, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation and neatness.
- Additional rules and guidelines can be found by contacting your local DAR chapter.

A winner will be selected from each of the four grades to advance to the state level. The state winner from each grade will advance to the divisional level. The divisional winners will advance to the national level where the winners are announced. All National winners will receive a certificate, medal and a monetary reward.

**For additional contest information or guidelines, please contact your local DAR chapter or visit [DAR.org](http://DAR.org).**

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization. DAR members are dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism in communities across the nation. All students are invited to participate and learn more about the educational programs the DAR offers. Educators, parents and students are encouraged to contact their local DAR chapters for more detailed information on these programs.

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**For more information please contact:**

**DAR Chapter:** Tucson Chapter

**Contact Name:** Linda Magellan

**Phone Number:** 209 470-6197

**Email:** regent.tucsonchapterdar@gmail.com

**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution**  
**American History Essay Contest**  
**(Grades 5-8)**  
**Judge's Scoring Sheet**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Town/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade level: \_\_\_\_\_

	1	2	3	4	Score
<b>Essay Submission:</b> Consider: Title Page is complete and essay contains sources. Does not exceed word count: 300-600 (5th), 600-1000 (6th-8th)	Title Page is not complete; essay exceeds word count and/or lacks resources.	Title Page is complete but essay exceeds word count and/or has two or fewer sources.	Title Page is complete; essay has required word count; essay has three or fewer resources.	Title Page is complete; essay is presented according to directions with four or more resources	_____/4
<b>Historical Accuracy:</b> Consider: Essay meets standards of historical accuracy. 2X Points	Essay does not contain correct historical information (1-2pts)	Essay contains generally relevant and correct historical information (3-4pts)	Essay contains relevant and correct historical information (5-6pts)	Essay contains extensive correct historical information (7-8pts)	_____/8
<b>Adherence to Topic:</b> Consider: Writer demonstrates a clear understanding of question and responds with details. 2X Points	Little or no facts, concrete details, or examples included (1-2pts)	Attempts to develop subject with facts and examples, but lacks concrete details (3-4pts)	Develops subject with facts, concrete details, quotations and examples (5-6pts)	Thoroughly develops subject with relevant facts, concrete details, quotations and examples (7-8pts)	_____/8
<b>Organization of Essay:</b> Consider: Organization of essay	No organization: lacks beg/mid/end	Some organization: attempt at a beg/mid/end	Organized: beg/mid/end	Strong organization beg/mid/end	_____/4
<b>Interest:</b> Consider: Originality, word choice, voice, holds the reader's interest. 2X Points	Limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest (1-2 pts)	Words communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety (3-4 pts)	Vivid words and phrases draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally words are used inaccurately (5-6 pts)	Vivid words and phrases that draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of the words seem accurate and natural (7-8 pts)	_____/8
<b>Mechanics:</b> Spelling and Grammar	More than four (4) errors in spelling and/or grammar	Three (3) misspellings and/or grammatical errors	Two (2) or fewer misspellings and/or grammatical errors	No misspelling or grammatical errors	_____/4
<b>Resources:</b> Consider: Author, Title, Primary or Secondary, and/or Website address	Zero to one source listed (0-1pt)	Two sources	Three sources, including one primary source	Four or more sources, including both primary and secondary sources	_____/4

Comments:

Judge's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\* Note: The highest score an applicant can attain is 40.

**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution**  
**AMERICAN HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST 2024–2025**  
 (This information is for chapter and school use)

**NEW THIS YEAR – ALL ESSAYS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY**

<b>TOPIC:</b>	“Enjoying a new kind of Tea Party” Question: In the 1770’s there was a movement of protest from the Colonists against the British due to taxes and laws. Along the eastern coast a growing number of Patriots held “tea” parties. The Boston Tea Party was on December 16, 1773, and the Charlestown, SC Tea Party and the Chester Town Tea Party followed in 1774. In October 1774, 51 women in Edenton, North Carolina, decided to refuse to buy tea from the British because of their high taxes and laws. In 1774, women in Wilmington, North Carolina, burned their tea for the same reasons. Imagine you are one of these women boldly participating in one of these Tea Parties in North Carolina. Give details of either the Edenton Tea Party or Wilmington Tea Party, describe the tea party, and why you would choose to join them. Then explain if you think it was a good decision.
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	<b>All grade 5, 6, 7, and 8 students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are home schoolers, are eligible.</b> An individual student may submit an entry directly to a DAR chapter in their own state if their class or school is not participating. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex, or national origin. <b>DO NOT SUBMIT A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH WITH ENTRY.</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>Grade 5: 300–600 words Grades 6, 7, and 8: 600–1,000 words</b>
<b>FORM:</b>	Essay is to be prepared on a computer, using black type in a non-script font no smaller than 12 point or larger than 14 point. A limited vision student may use Braille, a tape recorder, or very large type. A written transcript must be included, as well as a teacher’s or physician’s letter attesting to the student’s special need. Please note that the entire essay must be the student’s original work. This includes all research, writing, and editing, which must be done by the student themselves and not by a parent, teacher, tutor, AI, or other helper. Each essay must include a <b>completed Title page.</b>
<b>RESOURCES:</b>	<b>Essay must have a list of all resources utilized. Four individual resources are expected. Internet resources, if used, should include the electronic address.</b> <b>** <u>Any essay with information copied directly from sources without using quotes (plagiarized) will be disqualified.</u> **</b>
<b>JUDGING AND AWARDS:</b>	<b>Judging will be based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of material, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, and that it is the student’s own work. Pictures, maps, drawings, graphics, and other such additions <i>will not</i> be considered in judging and should not be included.</b> Judging at the chapter level is by three judges, including at least two non-DAR judges. Judging at other levels is by three judges, all of whom are non-DAR members.  <b>CHAPTER:</b> One essay at each grade level is selected as the chapter winner and forwarded to the state American History chair for state competition or to district/region first. American History essay contest chapter winner certificates and bronze medals may be presented by the chapter if desired. In addition, chapters may present certificates of participation to every student who participates in the essay contest. These supplies are available from the DAR Store.  <b>STATE:</b> One essay at each grade level is selected as the state winner and forwarded to the appropriate national division vice chair of American History for division competition. The state winner receives a silver medal and state winner certificate.  <b>DIVISION:</b> One essay in each grade is selected as the division winner and forwarded for national competition to the national vice chair. Division winners are presented a division winner certificate.  <b>NATIONAL:</b> One essay in each grade is selected as the national winner. A certificate, gold pin and monetary award is presented to each national winner at Continental Congress in June 2024. Winning essays may appear in official DAR communications.  <i>Note: All essays must be submitted to a local chapter electronically by a teacher, school or individual student. Essays sent directly to the national chair or vice chair of the essay contest will not be considered.</i>
<b>DEADLINE:</b>	Chapter chairs should determine date for teachers, schools or individual students to forward essays to them to the chapter chair to allow for judging to be completed prior to state deadline. <i>States with district level judging should set appropriate intermediate deadlines. Date assigned:</i>

**NAME, EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER OF CHAPTER CONTACT PERSON** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Linda Magellan (209) 470-6197 Regent.tucsonchapterDAR@gmail.com

**NAME OF SPONSORING DAR CHAPTER** Tucson Chapter

If additional information about the contest is needed, please contact the Office of the Historian General, NSDAR, at  
 1776 D Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006–5303 Phone: (202) 879–3256