

Daughters of the American Revolution

# Patriots of the American Revolution High School Essay Contest



Hundreds of thousands of early American colonists sacrificed their health, their lives, their fortunes in the pursuit of a new way of life, a revolutionary form of government, a chance to freely decide how they wanted to live.

Men, women, and children from all walks of life, of all colors, creeds, and political opinion found common ground as they fought for our

## United States of America

Topic (800-1200 Words):

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.



Essays will be judged for historical accuracy, organization of materials, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and the quality and scope of references, particularly the use of primary sources.



Learn More!

The DAR, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is 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

 **DAR**  
Daughters of the American Revolution

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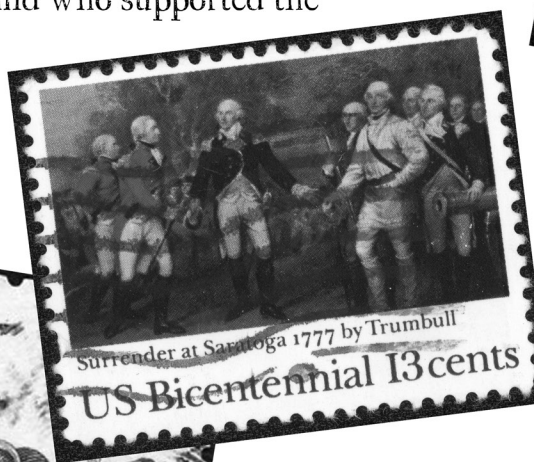
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**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
PATRIOTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
DAR HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST 2024–2025**

(This information is for chapter and school use)

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

<b>TOPIC:</b>	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. Your figure 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.
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	<b>All grade 9, 10, 11, and 12 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>	Length is to be from 800–1,200 words.
<b>FORM:</b>	Essay must be typed or 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. In this case, 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 and not by a parent, teacher, tutor, AI, or other helper. Essays may only be submitted once to the contest. <u>Each essay must have a title page listing the following:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title of Essay: "<b>Name of your subject</b>"</li> <li>• A subtitle is permitted if written below the topic.</li> <li>• Contestant's full name and address. (street, rural route, PO Box, city, state, zip code) <u>Note:</u> If the school's regulations prohibit student contact information, then school contact information may be substituted.</li> <li>• Contestant's phone number (with area code) and e-mail address, if available</li> <li>• Name of contestant's school with gradelevel indicated</li> <li>• Name of sponsoring DAR chapter</li> <li>• Number of words in essay</li> </ul>
<b>RESOURCES:</b>	Essay must include a bibliography listing all references utilized. Four or more resources are expected. The bibliography should be cited in a standard, recognized citation style (e.g., APA, Chicago, MLA, etc.). Internet resources, if used, should be cited in the same style, including the electronic address used to access the document as supplementary information. Students are encouraged to use primary sources and cite them. Any essay with information copied directly from sources without using quotes will be disqualified.
<b>JUDGING AND AWARDS:</b>	<b>JUDGING: Judging will be based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of material, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, neatness and that it is the student's own work. Pictures, maps, drawings, graphics and other such additions will not 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 is selected as the chapter winner and forwarded to the state American History chair for state competition or to district/region first. Patriots of the American Revolution essay contest chapter winner certificate and medal 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 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 which are available from The DAR Store. <b>DIVISION:</b> One essay 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 is selected as the national winner. A certificate, pin and monetary award is presented to national winner at Continental Congress. The national second and third place winners receive a certificate and a check. Winning essays may appear in official DAR communications. <i><b>Note: All essays must be submitted to a local chapter <u>electronically</u> 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.</b></i>
<b>DEADLINE:</b>	Chapter chairs should determine date for teachers, schools or individual students to forward essays 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.org

**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, DC 20006–5303 Phone: (202) 879–3256

**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution**  
**Patriots of the American Revolution Essay Contest**  
**(Grades 9-12)**  
**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 bibliography. Does not exceed word count of 800 to 1200.	Submission is not complete; title page is not complete; essay exceeds word count and/or lacks bibliography.	Submission is complete with title page but essay exceeds word count and/or has two or fewer sources in bibliography.	Submission is complete with title page; essay has required word count; essay has three or fewer resources in bibliography.	Submission is complete with title page; essay is presented according to directions with four or more resources in bibliography.	_____/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 responses 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	Four (4) or more errors in spelling and/or grammar	Three (3) misspellings and/or grammatical errors	Two (2) or fewer misspelling and/or grammatical errors	No misspelling or grammatical errors	_____/4
<b>Bibliography:</b> Consider: List shows use of both primary and secondary sources.	Zero to one (1) source listed in bibliography. (0-1pt)	Two (2) sources with no primary source listed in bibliography.	Three (3) sources with at least one primary source listed in bibliography.	Four (4) or more sources including both primary and secondary listed in bibliography.	_____/4

Comments:

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

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