



Congress of the United States

to be and held at the City of New York

on Wednesday the fourth of March one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine

The Convention for the purpose of the States having at the time of their adoption of the Constitution...  
The Convention for the purpose of the States having at the time of their adoption of the Constitution...  
The Convention for the purpose of the States having at the time of their adoption of the Constitution...

# FOUNDING FATHERS ESSAY AND PLAYWRITING CONTEST

★★ Contest Information and Cover Sheet ★★

- Article the Sixth
- Article the Seventh
- Article the Eighth
- Article the Ninth
- Article the Tenth
- Article the Eleventh
- Article the Twelfth
- Article the Thirteenth
- Article the Fourteenth
- Article the Fifteenth

The rights of the people to the press in their papers, books, pamphlets, and other publications, shall be secured, and the press shall be held to account for its conduct, and the press shall be held to account for its conduct, and the press shall be held to account for its conduct...

No person shall be held to answer for a crime until he has been indicted by a grand jury, except in cases where the laws may otherwise provide, and no person shall be held to answer for a crime until he has been indicted by a grand jury, except in cases where the laws may otherwise provide...

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district where the crime shall have been committed, unless the crime is otherwise provided for by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to be heard and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence, to confront the witnesses against him, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.

In suits at common law where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States as to the merits of the case.

Congress shall not suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*, nor shall any person be seized and imprisoned without due process of law.

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Attest  
 I, John Adams, Vice President of the United States and President of the Convention

# FOUNDING FREEDOMS CONTEST

## DEAR EDUCATOR

The National Constitution Center is pleased to announce our Founding Documents Essay and Playwriting Contest. Thanks to the generous support of the John Templeton Foundation the Founding Freedoms essay and playwriting contest will challenge public and independent school teachers to increase constitutional literacy and awareness of individual rights in their classrooms. The essay contest asks 6th, 8th, and 12th grade students to compose essays exploring the contemporary meaning of and relationship between the founding documents, while the playwriting component encourages 12th grade students to write a script for a play set in Philadelphia during the time of the Constitutional Convention. (The winning submission will be professionally produced and performed at the Center.)

We are very excited to launch this new contest and want to encourage all educators to engage their students with the supporting materials and lesson plan provided. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email us at [education@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:education@constitutioncenter.org).

Sincerely,

Kerry Sautner

Vice President of Education

The National Constitution Center

# RULES, REGULATIONS, AND PRIZE INFORMATION

## Essay and Playwriting Contest Timeline

- **December 2014 - February 2015:** Essay Contest opens and submissions will be accepted through NCC's online submission platform.
- **February 22, 2015 at 11:59pm:** Last day for submissions for playwriting contest.
- **February 28, 2015 at 11:59pm:** Last day for submissions for essay contest.
- **March 14th, 2015:** on the eve of James Madison's Birthday, Essay and Playwriting contest winners will be announced in a formal award ceremony with all winners and their teachers present at the award ceremony.
- **July 2, 2015:** the winner of the 12th grade Playwriting script will be in attendance for the first performance of their production.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- **Length of essays:** A minimum of 300 words (6th grade), 500 words (8th grade) or 1,000 words (12th grade). Essays not satisfying the minimum requirement will be rejected.
- **Length of play:** Plays should be no more than 25 pages in 11pt font and, when read aloud, take no more than 30 minutes. Plays not satisfying these requirements will be rejected.
- **Scoring:** See the scoring rubric found on the homepage of contest website.
- **Essay planning:** Essays should have an introduction, body and a conclusion. Arguments are clearly made and well supported by the United States Constitution, Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence.
- **Citations:** The best essays have clear, consistent citations. Please use APA format for all citations. Primary sources are encouraged.
- Essays and Plays are due no later than Saturday, January 31, 2015 at 11:59pm. Entries received after that date/time will not be considered.
- Submissions must be submitted electronically through the website using the online form. Hard copies will not be accepted.
- A signed cover sheet must accompany each essay.
- Please name the file with the student's name(example: KerrySautnerEssay.pdf)

# ESSAY CONTEST PRIZES

## 12th Grade Essay Contest Winner

- First Place: \$2,500 to the student and \$250 to the teacher. Travel and accommodations to student, teacher and parent/guardian to the March 14th, 2015 awards ceremony. Second Place: \$1,000 to the student

## 8th Grade Essay Contest Winner

- First Place: \$1,000 to the student and \$250 to the teacher. Travel and accommodations to student, teacher and parent/guardian to the March 14th, 2015 awards ceremony. Second Place: \$500 to the student

## 6th Grade Essay Contest Winner

- First Place: \$500 to the student and \$100 to the teacher. Travel and accommodations to student, teacher and parent/guardian to the March 14th, 2015 awards ceremony. Second Place: \$100 to the student

# PLAYWRITING CONTEST PRIZES

## 12th Grade Playwriting Contest Winner

- First Place: \$2,500 to the student and \$250 to the teacher. Travel and accommodations to student, teacher and parent/guardian to the March 14th, 2015 awards ceremony and the July 2nd public performance.
- Second Place: \$1000 to the student

# COVER SHEET FOUNDING FATHERS EASSY AND PLAYWRITING CONTEST

Student name and grade

---

Essay Title

---

School Name and Address

---

School Phone Number

---

Teacher's Name and Email

---

Student's Home Address (full address including zip)

---

---

Student's Home Phone Number

---

---

---

Parent/Guardian Name

---

Parent/Guardian Email and Phone Number

---

---

I certify that this is an original research project constituting only my work and that I am the sole author. I also grant the National Constitution Center all intellectual property rights associated with this essay and/or script, therefore permitting its reproduction by the Center for any purpose.

Student's Signature and Date

---

Parent/Guardian's Signature and Date

---

*Whether planning a field trip, looking for innovative ways to enhance classroom instruction or seeking a deeper understanding of American history and active citizenship, the National Constitution Center is an educator's ultimate civic learning resource.*

*Learn more at*

**CONSTITUTIONCENTER.ORG/EDUCATION**

**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

**THE MUSEUM OF *We the People***

Independence Mall | 525 Arch Street | Philadelphia, PA 19106