

## NSCDA Washington Week Workshop Scholarship ESSAY RULES & INFORMATION

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America is pleased to offer this amazing opportunity to high school students!

**The essay topic for 2017 is:**

**“Why was the division of power between the President and Senate to nominate and confirm a Supreme Court Justice created by our founding fathers?”**

- **Deadline** is December 1, 2016 (postmarked or by time/dated email)
- We welcome essays from 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students!
- If students are participating as part of a class or school project, please note that all students must submit an individual application form and essay.
- Students may enter online or send hard copies via USPS mail.
- Complete the online **Application**. Save (see below) or download/print the form. If completing form by hand, take care to make sure all information is legible.
- Essays (750 words or less, excluding topic/title and sources) must be typed, double-spaced, and printed on one side of paper only. A cover page is strongly encouraged. The student’s name and state should be on each page of the essay.
- The title of the essay must be the same as the essay topic. The topic must not be altered in any way.
- **SAVE** all essays as PDF or Word. **NAME** your files: state + student’s last name + essay or application. As an example, if applying from Maryland, the file would be “MDSmith Essay.doc” or “MDSmithApp.pdf”
- Email or USPS mail essays with application to your local/State NSCDA Congressional Essay Chair or Patriotic Service chair as directed or send them to [Dames@DumbartonHouse.org](mailto:Dames@DumbartonHouse.org).
- If you do not know your NSCDA Dame contact in your state, please contact [Dames@DumbartonHouse.org](mailto:Dames@DumbartonHouse.org) to obtain the address for submission. **Reference “Essay Contest” as the subject of the email and give your name, city, and state.**
- Students submitting by paper should send their application plus three copies of their essay.
- If more than five students are entering the contest online from one school, please also USPS mail a copy of each essay to your NSCDA Dame contact.

## **CRITERIA FOR JUDGING ESSAYS:**

1. Content - 50%
  - a. Adherence to Topic
  - b. Factual accuracy
  - c. Clarity of ideas
  - d. Logical development of ideas
2. Form - 25%
  - a. Grammar, spelling and punctuation
  - b. Use of words, vocabulary
  - c. Essay length - (750 words maximum)
3. Individuality - 25%
  - a. Writing skill or flair
  - b. Use of comparative facts, background information
  - c. Persuasiveness
  - d. Individuality - Handling subject and presenting ideas