

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 2021 is:

The Electoral College was established in the U.S. Constitution as the election process for the President and Vice President. Support retaining the Electoral College, or propose and support another system to operate in its place.

- Deadline December 1, 2020, submitted by 11:59 PM. We welcome essays from current or rising 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students!
- Each application must contain a completed PDF application form and a typed essay.
- If students are participating as part of a class or school project, please note that all students must submit an complete individual application form and essay.
- If students are participating as part of a class assignment, only the top 10 scoring essays per class should be selected to submit - unless specifically excepted by State Patriotic Service Chair.
- Do not attach or insert pictures or add any color text or images to any pages. Doing so interferes with copying and may result in lower scoring. The cover page should just contain the Essay Question or Questions with the student's name, address, and email.
- Students may enter online or complete the fillable PDF and SAVE and to FORWARD to teacher or the appropriated the State Patriotic Service/Essay Contest Chair. To complete the online Application. Save (see below) also download/print the form. **Take care to make all information readable. Please fill out the information completely.**
- Essays (750 words or less, excluding cover page data, topic/title and sources) must be typed, double-spaced and if printed, on one side of the page only. 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; Use this style to **NAME** your files: State + student's Last Name +Initial of you first name+ Essay or Application. As an example: if applying from Maryland the file would be:
+"MDSmithAEssay.doc or MDSmithAApp.pdf"
- Complete the fillable PDF application located under student resources on the NSCDA website. Email or USPS mail essays with application to the local/State NSCDA Congressional Essay Chair or Patriotic Service Chair as directed or send completed application to: **dames@nscda.org**.
- If you do not have a Colonial Dame contact for your State please send completed application to **dames@nscda.org**. If you have any questions, please email **dames@nscda.org**. Reference Essay Contest in the Subject line of the email and in the body of the email give your full name, city and state, email(s) and phone contacts.
- Students submitting by paper should send their application form plus 3 copies of each essay to the State Patriotic Service or Essay Chair.

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