



The NSCDA presents the
CONGRESSIONAL SEMINAR ESSAY CONTEST
RULES & INFORMATION

American high school students applying for the scholarship to the NSCDA-sponsored and Washington Workshops Foundation run, “Congressional Seminar” should pay attention to the following instructions:

- Write an essay on the assigned topic.
- The essay topic for 2022 is:
“Choose one of the five freedoms in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and discuss why it should or should not be changed in today’s high-tech global society.”
- The essays will be judged by the following criteria:
 - Content - 50%
 - Adherence to Topic
 - Factual accuracy
 - Clarity of ideas
 - Logical development of ideas
 - Form - 25%
 - Grammar, spelling and punctuation
 - Use of words, vocabulary
 - Essay length - (750 words maximum)
 - Individuality - 25%
 - Writing skill or flair
 - Use of comparative facts, background information
 - Persuasiveness
 - Individuality - Handling subject and presenting ideas
- 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"
- Deadline December 1, 2021, submitted by 11:59 PM. We welcome essays from current or rising 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students!
- If students are participating as part of a class or school project, please note that all students must submit a 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.
- Each application must contain a completed PDF application form and a typed essay.
- Students may enter online or complete the fillable PDF and SAVE and FORWARD to teacher or the appropriate 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.
- 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 three copies of each essay to the State Patriotic Service or Essay Chair.