

NSCDA CONGRESSIONAL SEMINAR ESSAY RULES & INFORMATION

The NSCDA invites essays by current high school students in grades 9 through 12. Winners must be 16 years of age or older by the start of the seminar the summer after the application deadline.

The deadline to submit is 11:59 PM on December 1.

- Essays are judged by their content (focus, accuracy, clarity, and logic), form (grammar, punctuation, and word choice), and individuality (structure, context, persuasion, and style).
- Each student must submit an application form, essay, and list of sources in the MLA or Chicago citation styles.
 - Note to teachers:
 - 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.
 - Teachers assigning this essay as part of a class or school project should filter the top ten essays to submit to the Congressional Seminar Essay Contest for consideration.
- The essay should be submitted in 12 pt Times New Roman font. The essays must be typed, double-spaced, and, if printed, on one side of the page only. Add the student name and email as a header in the upper right-hand corner of the essay and repeat it on every page.
- Do not attach or insert pictures or add any color text or images to any pages.
- Essays must be 750 words or fewer, excluding the sources cited.
- The title of the essay must be the same as the essay topic for the given year.
- Email or mail your application and essay to your local/State NSCDA Congressional Essay Chair or Patriotic Service Chair as directed.
 - If you do not have a Colonial Dame contact for your State please deposit this form and your essay in this Dropbox folder: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/3IPK0RMoeIPhOAWAjA1a> SAVE AS the file name: State Abbreviation-Student Last Name-Student First Name.PDF (ex: VA-Dorsey-Samantha.PDF)
- Students submitting physical copies of their application and essay should send three copies of each essay to their designated State Patriotic Service or Essay Chair.
- If you have any questions, please email dames@nscda.org. Reference “Congressional Seminar 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 contact(s).

Please note: Children and grandchildren of active NSCDA members are encouraged to submit essays and may participate in the Seminar as Legacy Scholars at their family's expense. They are not eligible for scholarships awarded to Congressional Essay Contest winners.