FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

UNITED STATES NAVY · MARINE CORPS · COAST GUARD

2026 - 2027



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

WHAT DOES *Patriotism* MEAN TO ME?

CONTEST DETAILS

ELIGIBILITY	: Students, Grade 7 through 12
DEADLINE	: December 1, 2026
REQUIREMENTS	: 350 words or less
THEME	: *"What Does Patriotism Mean to Me?"*
WEBSITE	: fra.org/essay

GRAND PRIZE

$1,500

18 NATIONAL AWARDS

REGIONAL & LOCAL PRIZES

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTEST, CONTACT:

SCHOOL COUNSELOR _____ FRA ESSAY CHAIRMAN _____

FRA BRANCH _____ TELEPHONE _____

FRA AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST RULES

- All entrants shall be students in grades seven through twelve (or equivalent).
- Entrants must be sponsored by a branch of the Fleet Reserve Association or a unit of the Ladies Auxiliary, or by an FRA Member-at-Large.
- The essay shall be on the theme designated and shall not exceed 350 words. The essay theme title must appear on the essay as written.
- **The essay shall be legibly written or typed on one page and one side of the paper.**
- The entrant name must not appear on the actual essay, but on a separate sheet as listed below.
- Each entry must be accompanied by a separate sheet [Cover Sheet] stating: the entrant's name; address; zip code; telephone number; school grade (or equivalent); name of school or the words "home schooled;" number of words in essay; and the sponsoring branch/unit or sponsor's name.
- The entrant must sign the Cover Sheet staying that no 'Artificial Intelligence' [AI] was used in writing the essay.
- A student may submit only one entry each year.
- Entries submitted to branches shall be submitted to the Branch Americanism-Patriotism Committee. If mailed entry must be postmarked not later than December 1, for judging at the branch level. If emailed, enter must be sent by December 1 to the Sponsoring Branch.
- Entries sponsored by membership at large members shall be submitted to the national chairman and forwarded to an appropriate branch for judging in their respective grade group. If mailed, all entries shall be postmarked not later than December 1st. If emailed to the national chairman, it must be sent by December 1st

Rev. 05-26

FRA AMERICANISM ESSAY COVER SHEET

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent Telephone Number: _____

Parent E-Mail Address: _____

Name of School: _____ Grade: _____

Number of Words in Essay: _____

AP Chair Name/Branch/Unit: _____

Phone Number _____ Email: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Entrants Signature Stating no Artificial Intelligence [AI] used in writing the essay.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Permission: I understand that my student is participating in FRA's Americanism Essay Contest and authorize FRA to publish photos of him/her if he/she should receive recognition for this entry.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Note: Please type or write legibly.

PLEASE USE THIS FORM ONLY – NO OTHER ACCEPTED

Rev. 6-25