

## 2025 ESSAY CONTEST RULES & REGULATIONS

### "Is the American Dream Still Relevant Today?"

Any student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in a public, private or parochial, cyber school or who is home schooled in Pennsylvania is eligible to participate.

Students **MUST** prepare essays without assistance and provide a statement to that effect on the last page. (See winning essay's sample)

All essays **MUST** have a **COVER PAGE** containing the following:

- The Essay Title (As stated above **WITH NO CHANGES**),
- Student's Name, address, telephone, & email address (if applicable),
- School Name and Address if applicable,
- Teacher's verification of Student's Grade Level,
- Sponsoring American Legion Post Number & address,
- Parent or guardian's name, address and phone number,
- Student's signature.

ALL essays (typewritten preferred but not required) **MUST be no less than 500 words and no more than 1,000 words.**

The title **MUST** appear on all pages of the essay as well as the cover page.

Essays shall be judged on the following:

- **Proper English structure.**
- **Accuracy.**
- **Extent of information.**
- **Originality** - Any material not original must be cited in a bibliography for the information of the judges, stating publication, volume, page, date, publisher and author. Anything cited from the internet must include a verifiable internet address such as: <http://pa-legion.com/aboutour-history/>

- No reference shall be made, for or against, any political candidate or political party affiliation.

#### **DEADLINE DATES:**

1. **BEFORE JANUARY 8, 2025** - STUDENTS must submit their Essays to a **LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION POST**. Each high school may select one (1) winner for each American Legion Post in their school district. To locate a post <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEBusiness/Find-a-Post> & and enter your zip code.
2. **BEFORE JANUARY 22, 2025** - The American Legion Posts shall have selected and forwarded their winning essays to their **COUNTY** Essay Chairperson.

3. **BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 2025-** **COUNTIES** shall have forwarded their winning essays to their appropriate **DISTRICT Essay Chairperson** (as listed in the current American Legion Directory).

4. **BEFORE FEBRUARY 25, 2025 -** **DISTRICTS** shall have forwarded their winning essays to their **SECTIONAL Essay Vice Chairperson**.

5. **BEFORE MARCH 12, 2025** - each **SECTION** (East, Central, West) shall have selected and forwarded their winning essay to the Department Essay Chairperson.

6. The Department of Pennsylvania's Essay Program's top three winners will have been judged and selected by **MARCH 25, 2025**.

The Department of Pennsylvania will award the following prizes to those top three (3) winning Essays.

- **First Place Winner** will be awarded a **\$3,500**, a plaque and a trip to the **PA American Legion Convention in July** to read the winning essay to the assembled delegates.
- **The Second Place Winner** will receive **\$3,000** and a plaque.
- **The Third Place Winner** will receive **\$2,500** and a plaque.