

THE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD ESSAY CHALLENGE



Official Rules and Guidelines

Theme
2016 - 2017 School Year

The Meaning of Liberty Today

RULES

The President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge is open to all **9th through 12th grade students** in Michigan. To enter, write a 500 – 750 word essay on this year's theme, **The Meaning of Liberty Today**. Limit one entry per student, per contest.

- All essays must be submitted on white, 8 1/2" x 11" paper with one-inch margins on each side. Essays must be single-sided and double-spaced, using black or dark blue ink. Judges will determine legibility of fonts and hand written entries.
- **A title page is required for each entry.** It must include student name, address, phone, e-mail, grade, school, teacher, school address and school phone.
- The sponsors reserve the right to interpret the contest rules and to make decisions concerning the awards in situations not covered by these rules.
- Participation in the contest constitutes entrant's full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of all official rules and guidelines, including eligibility requirements.

PROCESS

- Drop off, or mail, completed entry to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Attn: Barbara McGregor, 303 Pearl St., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353. All entries must be hand delivered or postmarked no later than **March 6, 2017**. No late entries will be accepted.
- Essays will be reviewed by judges comprised of civic, education, and/or business leaders.
- Finalists will be notified no later than April 3, 2017.
- Participating sponsors are not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, illegible, or incomplete essays, or essays that do not follow all rules and guidelines.
- Essays will not be returned.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- Winners will be selected based on adherence to the theme, quality of narrative, originality of the essay, as well as on proper use of grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- Plagiarism will result in disqualification.

- Judges will select the top three entries. Judges also reserve the right to select up to six honorable mention recipients. Decisions of the judges are final.

ELIGIBILITY

- Employees of the sponsors, and members of their households, are not eligible.
- By participating, each contestant agrees to comply with these rules and further agrees to accept the decision of the judges as final and binding.
- Parents or guardians of the finalists will be required to sign and submit a publicity consent form as a condition of a student's participation in this contest.

PRIZES

- The first place winner will receive \$1,000.00, second place \$750.00, and third place \$500.00.
- Honorable mention recipients will each receive \$250.00.

The President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge is co-sponsored by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.