



Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia High School Essay Contest Rules Essays Due February 1, 2020

The Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia encourages Virginia and West Virginia High School students to study the War of 1812, and especially, the role Virginians had in supporting what is often referred to as the “Second War for Independence.”

1. Subject of the Essay must be on a Virginian who supported the United States in the War of 1812. Suggestions include, but not limited to, James Monroe, James Madison, Dolley Madison, Elizabeth Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Randolph, and James Barbour.
2. Title Page – The title page must include the following:
 - Title of the Essay
 - Applicant’s name, grade, address, phone number & email
 - Applicant’s high school’s name, address & phone number
3. Essay Pages – The essay must:
 - Be a minimum of 800 and a maximum of 1,500 words (excluding title page, endnotes, bibliography, page and biography)
 - First page must include the title
 - No applicant information is on the essay pages
 - 12-point Times New Roman font and double-spaced
 - Use 8 ½” by 11” paper with 1” margins on all sides
 - Essay pages are numbered sequentially, starting with “1”
 - No graphics, special covers or bindings are allowed. Please do not staple the pages.
4. Bibliography pages – The bibliography must include:
 - Citations in the essay and references in the bibliography must be in accordance with a widely used, publicly available citation system (Examples include the Chicago Manual of Style, the MLA Manual of Style, & the MHRA Style Guide).
 - Minimum of 5 references, 3 of which must be published works (encyclopedias or internet sources are acceptable but not considered part of the 3 published works)
5. Student Biography page - The biography of the student must be:
 - Limited to one page.
 - Includes academic awards and achievements, school activities, community activities and plans for college.

Essays which meet the criteria above will be accepted and judged equally on the following criteria:

- Historical accuracy
- Clarity of thought
- Organization and proven topic
- Grammar and spelling
- Documentation

Entries must be received by **February 1, 2020**. Please mail to Paul Walden, Secretary, Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, P.O. Box 4057, Alexandria, VA 22303-0057.

Students submitting essays give permission to the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia to publish their essays on the society website and newsletter.

Judging will occur before the Society's Spring, 2020 meeting. The winners will be announced on the Society's website: <http://1812va.org>

Entries are limited to public, private, and home-schooled High School students in West Virginia and Virginia who are in the 9th through 12th grade.

Prizes: First Place: \$750, Second Place: \$500