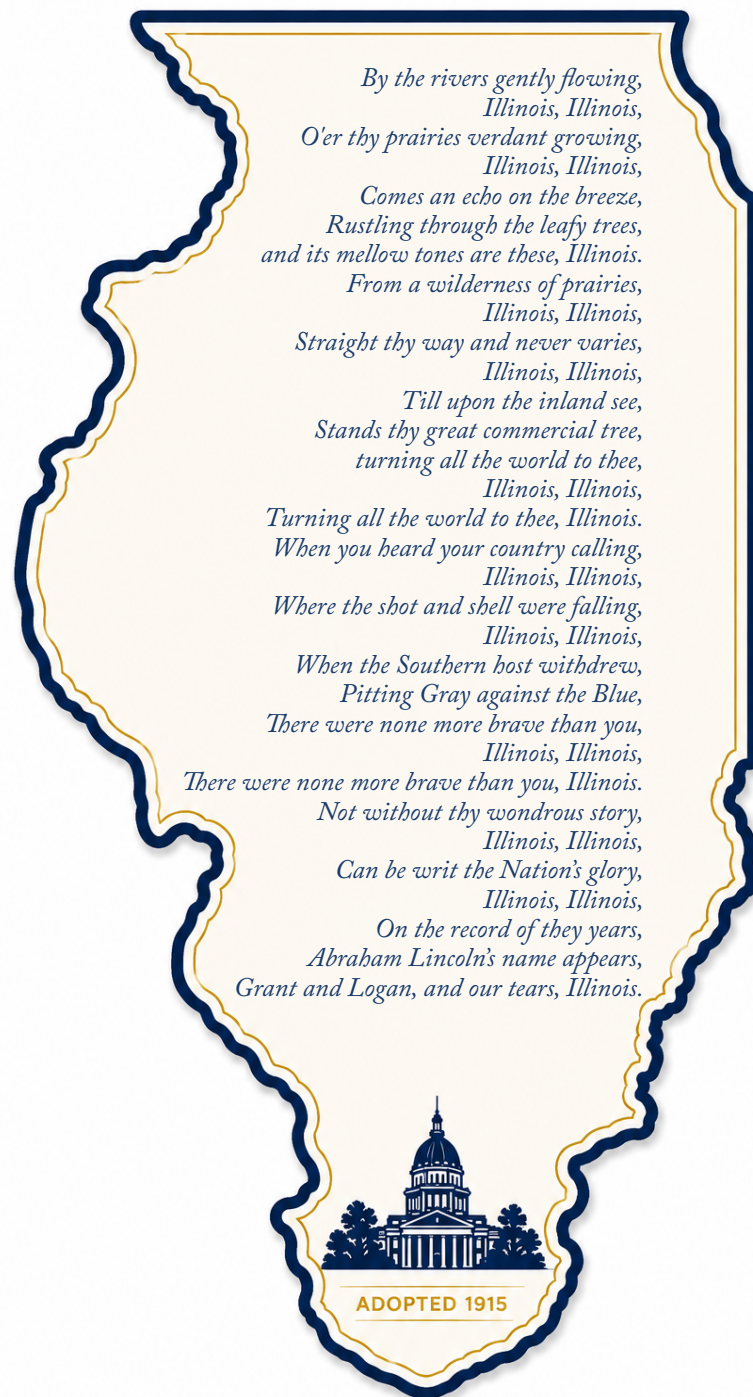




THE AMERICAN'S CREED

WILLIAM TYLER PAGE

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

-  Written by William Tyler Page, 1917
-  Accepted by the U.S. House of Representatives, April 3, 1918

2027

SCAN HERE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE:



DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST



2027 Essay Subject & Title:

How Can Individuals Make a Positive Impact on Their Country?

SPONSORED BY



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF ILLINOIS

The purpose of The **Americanism Essay Contest** is to aid schools in Illinois in the teaching of AMERICANISM and GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

The contest is divided into the following **THREE CLASSES:**

- CLASS I - 7th and 8th grades
- CLASS II - 9th and 10th grades
- CLASS III - 11th and 12th grade

All Illinois School students in the 7th and 8th grades and Junior and Senior High School are invited to participate in this contest. All contestants must be a lawful permanent resident of the United States of America and a bona fide student in a Junior or Senior High School. Home schooled will be competing at their own grade level according to age. **Eligible participants in the contest shall be citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States.** Competition will be on a Post, Unit or Squadron level and **continue on to the Auxiliary District and Division level.** Division 1st place winners in each class will compete for the following **State Awards:**

CLASS III		
1st Place	\$1200.00	Scholarship
2nd Place	\$700.00	Scholarship
3rd Place	\$400.00	Scholarship
4th Place	\$375.00	Scholarship
5th Place	\$300.00	Scholarship

CLASS II		
1st Place	\$200.00	Cash Award
2nd Place	\$175.00	Cash Award
3rd Place	\$150.00	Cash Award
4th Place	\$125.00	Cash Award
5th Place	\$100.00	Cash Award

CLASS I		
1st Place	\$200.00	Cash Award
2nd Place	\$175.00	Cash Award
3rd Place	\$150.00	Cash Award
4th Place	\$125.00	Cash Award
5th Place	\$100.00	Cash Award

DEADLINES FOR ENTRIES
The essay must reach the local American Legion Post, American Legion Auxiliary Unit, or SAL Squadron on or before FEBRUARY 6, 2026 (first Friday in February)

ESSAYS MUST BE SENT TO THE LOCAL POST, UNIT OR SQUADRON!

Essays received from schools **MUST** be judged by ****Post, Unit or Squadron** and only the 1st place winning essay from each Class forwarded by **March 1st** to the respective **District AUXILIARY Chairman**, District AUXILIARY Chairman judge essays and **send 1st Place winners to the respective Division AUXILIARY Chairman by April 1st.** Division AUXILIARY Chairman judge essays and **send 1st Place winners to Department AUXILIARY Chairman by May 1st.** Names and addresses may be obtained by calling De-partment Auxiliary Headquarters - (309)-663-9366

****Reminder: ONLY ONE ENTRY PER CLASS PER POST NUMBER IS SENT ON TO THE DISTRICT CHAIRMAN.**

CONTEST RULES:

IDENTIFICATION: Essay entry must include —

- Title page with Essay subject name on it
- Student's name, home address (incl. city/state/zip), phone number and email.
- Parent (or legal guardian) name & phone #
- Grade in school
- Name of school
- Name of sponsoring Post, Unit or Squadron. THIS INFORMATION MUST BE ON COVER PAGE

LENGTH: The essay shall be no more than 500 words in length (not counting a, an, and, the).

FORMAT: The essay may be either typed on a typewriter or through Word Processing or written in ink on regular theme paper. No decorative borders, pictures or other graphics. ***PAGES MUST BE NUMBERED AT THE CENTER BOTTOM, STARTING WITH FIRST PAGE OF ESSAY AND PAPER CLIPPED TOGETHER(NO STAPLES!)* - DO NOT NUMBER THE COVER PAGE!**

IMPORTANT: All essays must be submitted to a local American Legion Post, American Legion Auxiliary Unit or Sons of The American Legion Squadron.

BASIS FOR JUDGING

	Points	-	Total
1.Content			
A. Creativity, use of original subject matter, Presentation	25		
B. Relation to topic	15		
C. Essay must be factual	10		50
2. Organization of Subject Matter			
A. Unity (avoid irrelevant matter)	10		
B. Emphasis (good proportion and arrangement of parts)	10		
C. Coherence (clearness)	10		30
3.Correct Usage			
A. Choice of words (free from overused expressions)	10		
B. Effective sentences (correct grammar, spelling, punctuation and neatness)	10		20
TOTAL			100

PRINCIPLES OF AMERICANISM

The characteristic which distinguishes our form of government from others is the recognition of the truth that the inherent and fundamental rights of its people are derived from God and not from governments, dictators or majorities. These inalienable rights, which are the gifts to its people from their Creator, are Freedom of Worship; Freedom of Speech and Press; Freedom of Assemblage; Freedom to Work in such occupation as the experience, training and qualifica-tions of its people may enable them to secure and hold; Freedom to enjoy the fruits of their work, which means the protection of the property rights; and the Right to pursue their happiness so long as they do not harm others in the pursuit of happiness.

AMERICANISM DEFINITIONS

AMERICANISM is Love of America loyalty to its institutions as the best yet devised by its people to secure life, liberty, individual dignity and happiness; and the willingness to defend our Flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

AMERICANISM is a vital, active living force, Americanism means peace, strength, the will and the courage to live as free people in a free land. It means a friendly hand to people everywhere who respect our institutions and our thinking. It is not a word. It is a cause, a way of life, a challenge and a hope in this world of turmoil.

AMERICANISM is an ideal of loyal patriot-ism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, fearless courage, honest integrity, abiding faith in the commanding destiny of the United States, and a fathomless love for the principles which led our forefathers to found this country.

AMERICANISM is complete and unqualified loyalty to the ideals of government set forth in the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independ-ence, and the Constitution of the United States. It is respect for, and ready obedience to, duly constituted authority and the laws of the land. It is freedom without license, religion without bigotry, charity without bias or race hatred, love of Flag and a readiness to defend that for which it stands against every alien and subversive influence from without or within.

AMERICANISM is an unfailing love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; individual allegiance of the Flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity.