



Virginia House of Delegates Essay Contest 2007-2008 School Year

Statewide Essay Contest for All High School Juniors

The Virginia House of Delegates is pleased to announce a statewide essay contest open to all high school juniors. The goal of the contest is to provide students with an opportunity to conduct research and share their opinions on a topic that is related to Virginia's rich heritage.

Essay Topic

Students will write on the following topic:

In 1789, the First Federal Congress put forth to state legislatures twelve U.S. Constitution amendments drafted by Virginian James Madison. Articles three through twelve became the first ten amendments (Bill of Rights) to the U.S. Constitution and contained guarantees of essential rights and liberties as a foundation for government. The Bill of Rights principles of rights and liberties were based on Virginian George Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights of 1776. Other Virginians who supported these amendments included Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, and Richard Henry Lee. Discuss the significance of the U.S. Bill of Rights.

SOLs: CE.2.b, GOVT.11, US1.7, VUS.5

Essay Guidelines

Students must fulfill the following requirements:

1. The essay should be a minimum 500 words in length.
2. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, and in Times New Roman, 12 point font with 1½ inch margins on the right and left and 1 inch margins on the top and bottom.
3. The student's name must appear on each page, and each page must be numbered.
4. The student will provide historically accurate support for his/her selection of the significance of the U.S. Bill of Rights.
5. All entries must include the following information on the cover page:

Student Information

full name
 full name of parent(s) or guardian(s)
 mailing address
 telephone number
 e-mail address (if any)

School Information

name
 name of principal
 mailing address
 telephone number
 e-mail address (if any)

*This flyer is also available on the internet at
http://legis.state.va.us/lead/essaycontest/07_essay_contest.pdf*

Prize Details

One winner will be selected from the entries received. The winner will be invited to spend one day at the Capitol during the 2008 Session with his/her representative in the House of Delegates. The winner will also be presented with a \$500 United States Savings Bond and a framed certificate on the floor of the House of Delegates.

Travel arrangements and accommodations for the winning student and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) will be made and provided by the House of Delegates Clerk's Office.



Shown above is Delegate Joe T. May congratulating last year's Essay Contest winner, Miss Brittany Lynn Duffy from Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, VA.

Essay Contest Rules:

- The House of Delegates Essay Contest is open to all Virginia high school juniors.
- All entries must be received by December 3, 2007.
- Participants may submit their essays by mail or by e-mail to the addresses indicated below. Entries must be marked "Attention Essay Contest."
- All entries will become the property of the Virginia House of Delegates and will not be returned. Please make photocopies or electronic back-ups of your entries prior to submission.
- The winner will be notified in writing by mail by January 2, 2008, and information on coordinating a date for the Capitol visit will be provided at that time.

Legislative Education and Development (LEAD) Office
 House of Delegates, P.O. Box 406 • Richmond, Virginia 23218
 (804) 698-1500 or Toll Free 1-877-391-FACT • hinformation@house.state.va.us

Bruce F. Jamerson, Clerk of the House of Delegates