



Exploring history. Why teaching historical truth and accuracy is important.

About the Award:

The Iowa State Education Association is committed to advocating for Iowa's Public Education System. This award supports educators who are working to increase students' critical thinking skills and to recognize students' excellent work in this area.

Who is Eligible?

All students enrolled in Iowa's public schools' grades 3 – 12 or an Iowa Community College. Students must submit original work. There are four categories for participation:

Grades 3 – 5

Grades 6 – 8

Grades 9 – 12

Community College

Deadline:

Upload/received by deadline: February 28, 2022, 11:59 p.m.

Essays will be accepted beginning December 1, 2021.

Why Apply?

This essay contest allows Iowa students the opportunity to explore why it is important to study our nation's past to learn and grow toward a better future.

Topic:

Studying history allows us to observe and understand how people and societies behaved. It provides us with data that is used to think about various aspects of society. Please write about why it is important to look back in time from different perspectives, focal points, and voices.

Format:

The essay will be scored on the following factors:

- At least 300 words for grades 3 – 5.
- At least 500 – with a maximum of 1500 words for grades 6 – Community College.
- Organization & Progression (on topic, flows smoothly).
- Development of Ideas (details & elaboration). Use of Language / Conventions & Grammar (writer's word choice and language).
- Entries may be typed or handwritten but must be double-spaced.

Entering:

Entries may be submitted by email to Kimberly.Knight@isea.org.

Send mailed entries to:

Iowa State Education Association

Attention: Kimberly Knight

777 Third Street

Des Moines, IA 50309

Award Recognition:

First Place: \$50.00 and publication in the ISEA Communique Newsletter. Winners will be notified via email, and the names of winners will be announced in March 2022.

Official Rules:

Section 1 - General Rules

1. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others.
2. The Iowa State Education Association will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay or part thereof entered in the contest without payment to the author. All essays become property of ISEA.

Section II – Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to all Iowa public school students in grades 3 – 12 and Community College.
2. Contestants may submit only one essay entry during any given contest period.

Section III – Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official topic.
2. Each entry must include the Contest Entry Title Page (entry form) or submit a cover page containing the same information found on the Entry Form.
3. Essays may be typewritten or legibly handwritten but must be double-spaced.
4. Essays must contain at least 300 words for grades 3 – 5 and between 500 and 1,500 words for students in grades 6 through Community College.
5. Every word of the essay is counted but does not include the title, bibliography, or footnotes.
6. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be cited properly. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
7. All entries become the property of ISEA, and permission forms must be signed by guardians and a representative classroom educator for students 3 – 12.

Section IV – Judging and Timing

Judging will be completed by a panel of qualified ISEA judges.

Section V – Scoring of Contest

Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical:

1. Organization & Progression (on topic, flows smoothly): 45 points
2. Development of Ideas (details and elaboration): 30 points
3. Use of Language/Conventions & Grammar (word choice, formatting, and language): 20 points
4. Neatness: 5 points.

ISEA Essay Contest Entry Form

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM TO YOUR ENTRY

Student's Name: _____

Grade Level and Age: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Sponsoring Educator: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone Number: _____

Student Signature: I certify this is my original work.

Parent/Guardian Signature: (for students in grades 3 – 12)

Sponsoring Educator Signature: (for students in grades 3 – 12)

Deadline: February 28, 2022

Questions? Contact Kimberly.Knight@isea.org