

National Center for State Courts

annual Civics Education

ESSAY 2023 CONTEST



For
grades
3 to 12

\$3,000
in prize
money!

Each year, the National Center for State Courts recognizes Law Day through its civics education essay contest. Youth are invited to share their thoughts about a particular topic related to the courts and U.S. government. This year, we pose the following questions/prompts:

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL

The First Amendment protects freedom of speech. What happens when people are free to say anything they want? What kind of free speech situations require a judge or police officer to get involved to keep the peace?

HIGH SCHOOL

In 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a high school cheerleader could not be punished in school for using curse words on social media when commenting about not making the cheer team while she was off school grounds. Do you think students should be held to the same standard when exercising their First Amendment right to freedom of speech whether they're on or off school property? Are there circumstances where students should be punished by a court of law for what they say or write to maintain civility?

ENTRIES DUE MARCH 23, 2023



Visit ncsc.org/contest for more
information and contest rules.