1. The contest is open to 3rd-12th grade students. Students from any country may participate. Home schoolers are also welcome to enter.

2. All entries must be uploaded in the form on NCSC’s website at www.ncsc.org/contest. This is the preferred method of entry. However, hand-written essays may be submitted by mail to NCSC, c/o Deirdre Roesch, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, Va., 23185.

3. Each entrant must answer the question in their own words.

4. Elementary (3rd-5th grade) or middle (6th-8th grade) school students’ essays should not exceed 100 words for students. High school students’ essays should not exceed 250 words.

5. There is no entry fee.

6. Entries may be submitted through NCSC’s website beginning Monday, October 4, 2021. The deadline for submissions is 11:59 pm (EST, US) on Friday, February 25, 2022.

7. All portions of the online entry form must be completed when you upload your essay in order for it to be eligible.

8. The finalists will be judged by staff members of the National Center for State Courts on creativity, originality, overall quality and adherence to the theme.

9. The decision of the judges is final.
10. Entrants grant NCSC the right to use their names, photographs, statements, quotes and testimonials for advertising, publicity, and promotional purposes without notification or further compensation. This includes publication on NCSC’s social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest and Vimeo).

11. NCSC maintains the right to reproduce, reprint, distribute, perform, display, or exhibit the project for advertising, publicity, and promotional purposes on its website, at conferences, or at any other venues.

12. Entrants agree to be bound by the official contest rules and decisions of the judges.

13. The failure to submit required information and forms, or any false statements or misrepresentations made by the entrant, shall constitute a violation of the official contest rules and subject the entrant’s submission to immediate disqualification.

**Prizes:**

**9th-12th grade age level**
- First place: $1,000
- Second place: $500
- Third place: $250

**6th-8th grade age level**
- First place: $400
- Second place: $200
- Third place: $100

**3rd-5th grade age level**
- First place: $300
- Second place: $150
- Third place: $100