NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR FOUNDATION
Strengthening Justice for All

NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR FOUNDATION
HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS ESSAY CONTEST
2027 CONTEST RULES

The contest is open to all New Hampshire students who are enrolled in grades 11-12 in public, private, parochial, charter schools located within the State of New Hampshire. The contest is also open to all New Hampshire homeschooled students of equivalent grade status.

Students should be mindful of the contest topic and should review the essay prompt carefully; essays not responsive to the topic will be disqualified from the contest.

Students (including homeschooled students) may submit essays directly to the New Hampshire Bar Foundation (Foundation). **The name of a responsible adult familiar with their work (such as a teacher, guidance counselor, administrator, parent, tutor, or mentor) must be listed on the Student Entry Form.**

Each student may only submit one entry.

Entries must be submitted **via email no later than 5:00 pm on February 5, 2027**. We highly encourage submission before that date to allow time for confirmation that submitted materials are complete. **Late entries after 5:00pm will not be accepted.**

Although a student may discuss essay topics and issues with parents, teachers, and others and read other non-AI sources for background information or generally to better understand the topics and issues, a student's essay must be the student's original work. A student's essay must not be written, in whole or in part, by any person other than the student. Use of grammar and/or spell check software is permitted.

A student's essay must not be generated, in whole or in part, by an AI tool or system (including, but not limited to, large models such as ChatGPT, Claude, or Gemini). A student may not use an AI tool or system to aid the student in any aspect of the essay contest.

If a student's essay is found to have been generated or aided, in whole or in part, by an AI tool or system or written, in whole or in part, by any other person, the student's essay shall be disqualified from the Essay Contest. The NH Bar Foundation and/or the Essay Contest judges have sole and final discretion regarding disqualification.

Any passages contained in a student's essay paraphrased or quoted from other sources must be referenced in a "Works Cited" page in MLA or APA format. Failure to do so may result in the disqualification of the essay.

Email the essay, the *Student Entry Form*, the *Student and Parent/Guardian Release Form* and the *2027 Submission Form* to nhbfessaycontest@nhbar.org. All forms must be received by the deadline to be eligible.

Criteria:

1. Use of 12-point Cambria or Times New Roman font, double-spaced text with one-inch margins.

2. Length must be between 750 – 1,000 words.
3. **Include page numbers**. Do not include a title page or page headers or footers.
4. **Please save and submit the essay in PDF format**. Submissions should be named as follows: First name Last name.pdf (example: John Smith.pdf). Each submission will then be assigned an identification number by the Foundation. This is so that entries may be screened and judged anonymously.
5. Student's name CANNOT be included in the essay itself.
6. Any submission that includes identifying information (school, teacher/counselor, grade level, age, etc.) in the body or title of the essay will be disqualified.
7. Essay submissions must include a completed *Student Entry Form*, a completed *Student and Parent/Guardian Release Form*, and a completed *2027 Submission Form* to be considered. If all forms are not received by the deadline, the entry will be disqualified.

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2027 SUBMISSION FORM

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

School: _____

Grade Level: _____

By signing this form, I certify that the essay I am submitting is my own original work, that I did not use an AI tool or system in any aspect of the essay contest, that none of the content of the essay is AI-generated, and that no one helped me write my essay.

I also certify that I have followed all applicable copyright laws and fair use practices.

I agree that the New Hampshire Bar Foundation may publish all of, or excerpts of, my essay on its website and in other print publications, with appropriate credit to me as the author.

Signature: _____

Date: _____