



PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN LEGION

6TH – 8TH GRADE

2026 ESSAY CONTEST



“Do you think Flag Etiquette should be taught in schools?”

1. Any student enrolled in grades 6 through 8 in a public, private, parochial, cyber charter school, or who is home schooled in Pennsylvania is eligible to participate.
2. All essays **MUST** have a cover page containing the following information:
 - Essay Title (As stated on this page – do not change it or you will be disqualified).
 - Student's Name, address, telephone, & email address (if applicable).
 - The Sponsoring American Legion Post's number, name & location.
 - To locate a local post: <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Find-a-Post>
 - Find a Post , Enter city, state and zip code.
 - A Parent or guardian's name and address.
3. The title must appear on all pages of the essay, as well as the cover page.
4. ALL essays must be no less than 500 words and no more than 1,000 words.
5. Typewritten essays are preferred but not required
6. Essays shall be judged on the following:
 - Proper English structure
 - Accuracy
 - Extent of information
 - Originality - *Any material not original must be cited in a bibliography for the information of the judges, stating publication, volume, page, date, publisher, and author.*
7. Students must certify that essays are prepared without any assistance other than that provided for all members of their class. Lack of the certification will result in a disqualification.
8. The school may determine its own winner(s) and submit the winning essay(s) to the sponsoring American Legion Post(s) for judging **no later than February 5, 2026.** The local post shall determine when the contest will be held and types of awards to be presented
9. The Pennsylvania American Legion Essay Program, as any program conducted by The American Legion, is designed to provide balanced judging. It is suggested that at least three (3) qualified judges be used.
10. Questions on this Essay Contest can be directed to the Chairman.

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