



2026-2027

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Essay Theme: “*Explain a Constitutional Right or Privilege and How It Affects You and Your Family.*”

1. Eligible participants must be a student enrolled in the fifth, sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the normal 2026-27 school year, preceding June 30, 2027. **Deadline: Must be submitted to Local Lodge by December 15, 2026.**
2. Essay length is not to exceed 300 words.
3. Essay must be typed or legibly printed in ink. Also, essay must be submitted as written (or typed) by the entrant.
4. Essay must be submitted for judging to the Elks Lodge administering the contest at his or her school or, if unknown, to the Lodge nearest to the home address of the entrant.
5. Entrant must be identified on essay by name, home address, grade, school attended and sponsoring Lodge. (Lodge may enter Lodge information on essay cover sheet.)
6. Judging criteria:
 - Originality: Avoid the use of worn out words and phrases. Avoid using AI – 30 points
 - Development of theme: Stay focused on ideas and thoughts. Don't ramble – 40 points
 - Mechanics and neatness: Use proper spelling, grammar and punctuation – 30 points

There are now four separate divisions for judging essays:

• **Division I**—5th grade • **Division II**—6th grade • **Division III**—7th grade • **Division IV**—8th grade

PROCEDURES FOR LODGE AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Select from submitted entries the top three essays from each division and send the twelve essays to the District Americanism Chairman by Jan. 31, 2027, or the date established by the State Association.

PROCEDURES FOR DISTRICT AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Select the top three essays in each division from all entries submitted by Local Lodges and send the twelve essays to the State Americanism Chairman by Feb. 28, 2027, or the date established by the State Association.

PROCEDURES FOR STATE AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Select the first-, second- and third-place winners for the state from entries submitted by the District Chairman. In addition, State Chairman forwards the first-place winners from each division to the Grand Lodge Essay Contest Administrator. (*Must be postmarked by March 31, 2027.*)

SEND TO: Essay Contest Administrator Victoria Watson, Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee,
27 Churchill Drive, Millville, NJ 08332-9413

Plaques and monetary awards for first-, second-, and third-place winning essays in Divisions I, II, III, and IV, will be available for pickup at the Fraternal Committee's Booth at the end of the Grand Lodge Session on July 7, 2027.



2026-2027 AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST COVER SHEET

(MUST be attached to each Essay)



**“Explain a Constitutional Right or Privilege
and How It Affects You and Your Family.”**

Section 1 — to be filled out by student

(Circle or Highlight One Grade)

•Division I: 5th Grade

•Division II: 6th Grade

•Division III: 7th Grade

•Division IV: 8th Grade

School _____ Teacher's Name _____

School Address _____ City _____ State _____

Student's Name _____ Male ☐ Female ☐ Age _____ Grade _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone (____) _____

(used only to contact the winners)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

Send to Local Lodge no later than December 15, 2026.

Section 2 — to be filled out by Lodge Chairman

Chairman's Name Bryon Hancock Phone Number (414) 587 6380

Sponsoring Lodge Name & Number #46 Milwaukee

Address 5555 W Good Hope City Milwaukee State WI ZIP 53223

E-mail hancocbb@gmail.com

Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the District Americanism Chairman by January 31, 2027 or the date established by the State Chairman. (Top three only, do not separate as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)

Section 3 — to be filled out by District Chairman

Chairman's Name _____ District _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Chairman's Phone Number (____) _____ E-mail _____

Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the State Americanism Chairman by February 28, 2027 or the date established by the State Chairman. (Top three only, do not separate as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)

Section 4 — to be filled out by State Chairman

Chairman's Name _____ State _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Chairman's Phone Number (____) _____ E-mail _____

Select the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners for your State and send the 1st place winner from each division to the Contest Administrator, Victoria Watson, by March 31, 2027.