

CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST RULES

THEME: Celebrate our Country by...

GOAL: To promote and encourage participation in becoming responsible citizens. Using the theme provided, local units and councils are encouraged to conduct this program at any time during the school year, but the winning entries must be submitted to the state office on or before January 20, 2022. Each local unit and/or council may submit their five (5) best essays in each of the grade divisions.

DIVISIONS: Pre-Primary – Preschool through Kindergarten
Primary – Grades 1 through 2
Intermediate – Grades 3 through 5
Middle School – Grades 6 through 8
High School – Grades 9 through 12
Special Artist – All Grades

GUIDELINES:

1. All entries submitted shall be the original work from one individual entrant and must represent the student's interpretation of the provided theme. **NO GROUP ENTRIES ACCEPTED.**
2. Entrant must be enrolled in a PTA/PTSA school.
3. Entry form must be completely filled out and signed by a parent and/or teacher verifying the original work of the student.
4. The entry must be written or typed on 8.5"x11" white paper (or similar sized lined paper) with the student's name written on the back of each page. The student's name shall not appear anywhere on the front of any page.
5. **The entry can be submitted only by submitting the entry and form via email to ldavis@tnpta.org.**
6. Essays shall be a **minimum** length for each division, as follows:
 - Pre-Primary – 25 words
 - Primary – 50 words
 - Intermediate – 100 words
 - Middle School – 200 words
 - High School – 350 words
 - Special Artist – 50 words
7. Students may receive assistance in writing (getting words on paper) as follows:
 - Students in Pre-Primary, Primary, and Special Artist may record or dictate their entries for another person to type or write the entry. Transcribers are not to alter the grammar or form of speech of the student. Entries must be transcribed in original form. If the

transcriber is working from a written submission created by the student; the original work must be attached. Recordings should also be submitted.

- Students in Intermediate, Middle School, and High School may have their entries typed by another person, as long as the original work is attached. Transcribers are not to alter the grammar or form of speech of the student. Entries must be transcribed in original form.

8. Entry specifications shall be as follows:

- Handwritten entries may be either pencil or ink and on standard, lined notebook paper written by the entrant and verified on the entry form. Entries should have a space between each line of writing and must be written on only one side of the paper. Multiple page entries should not be stapled together. Each page shall be numbered. The student's name must be written on the back of each page but shall not appear on the front of any page.
- Typed entries by someone other than the entrant must have the original work included with the submission and be verified on the entry form. The essay should be typed on 8½"x11", white paper and be double spaced. The entry must be typed on one side only and multiple pages should not be stapled together. Each page shall be numbered. The student's name must be written on the back of each page but shall not appear on the front of any page.
- Each entry must be submitted via email.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Entries from local units and councils must be sent via email to jdavis@tnpta.org on or before the due date: **January 20, 2022**, and must be submitted with the appropriate inventory form. All forms required may be found in the forms section at the end of this document.

RECOGNITION

Make sure that all participants are recognized, including those with work advancing to another level. You may want to have a ceremony at a school assembly, an in-class presentation, or a PTA function. This can encourage future participation. Students see their peers enjoying the program and look forward to participating themselves. You may want to do the following:

- Include an article in your PTA or school newsletter.
- Send congratulatory letters.
- Set up a lunch or dinner party for the participants with the PTA president and/or school principal or teacher.
- Have essay entrants read their works.
- Acknowledge anyone who supported the program including parents, staff, volunteers, and community members.
- Announce the names of the participants over the school public address (PA) system.
- Provide a party or after-school event for participants.