



U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana Bill of Rights Essay Contest

“The Framers of the Bill of Rights did not purport to ‘create’ rights. Rather, they designed the Bill of Rights to prohibit our Government from infringing rights and liberties presumed to be pre-existing.”
- U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr.

The Bill of Rights protects fundamental individual rights, such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right against unreasonable search and seizure, and right against self-incrimination

Essay Prompt: Which Bill of Rights amendment means the most to you personally, and why?

Who May Enter: The contest is open to all high school students in grades 9-12 in the Eastern District of Louisiana (Assumption, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, and Washington Parishes). Students in grades 9-12 attending public, private, religious or charter schools, enrolled in a GED or correspondence school program, or attending a home school program are welcomed to participate. **Note:** Students participating may not have a direct connection to any judge selected to evaluate entries. **Submissions will be accepted beginning February 5, 2021.**

Length and Format: Essays must be between 500 and 800 words, double spaced, and in an easily read 14pt font. Proper use of citations and bibliographies will be credited during judging. Citations and bibliographies will not be included in the word count. Essays must be submitted electronically in PDF format as an attachment along with a completed contest entry form sent via email to edla_contests@aed.uscourts.gov. The contest entry form should be sent as a separate PDF in the same email. **Please do not include your name on your essay.**

Submission Deadline: Your essay and entry form must be submitted by 11:59 pm (CST) on March 5, 2021. Go to the [contest web page](#) for the complete contest rules and to complete the contest entry form.

Judging: Essays will be judged based upon the following criteria:

- Adherence to topic (5 points)
- Originality (5 points)
- Organization (5 points)
- Depth of analysis (5 points)
- Writing style (incl. proper use of citations & bibliographies) (5 points)

Awards: Cash prizes will be awarded to the authors of the five top essays, and announced at a Zoom event scheduled for March 31, 2021, at 4:00 pm.

- 1st Place: \$2,000
- 2nd Place: \$1,500
- 3rd Place: \$1,000
- 2 Honorable Mention Prizes: \$500 each

Questions? Go to the [contest web page](#) or contact the Clerk’s Office at (504) 589-7654 or edla_contests@aed.uscourts.gov.