



MUSKEGON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LAW DAY 2018 ESSAY CONTEST

The 2019 Law Day Theme —Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society—focuses on these cornerstones of representative government and calls on us to understand and protect these rights to ensure, as the U.S. Constitution proposes, “the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.” In the United States and around the world, freedom of speech and the press are among the most important foundations for a free society. Free speech and free press are prominent topics in public discourse and litigation. It is impossible to imagine a free society without these individual liberties, yet historical and current debates surrounding them continually challenge us to consider their boundaries and resilience. Changes in technology have reshaped how free speech and free press work in the everyday world.

QUESTION: The topic to be answered in essay format is:

It’s been 50 years since the Supreme Court said that students do not “shed their constitutional rights...at the schoolhouse gate.” (Tinker v. Des Moines, 393 U.S. 503, 1969) Have student rights evolved since then and if so, have their rights to free speech increased or diminished in school. (National School Walkout 2018)

Essays must be between 300 and 500 words, and submitted in a double-spaced, typed document along with the attached Entry Form. We encourage students to take a position and support that position with research, data, and material. Students should also be aware of the contrary position and be able to argue and support why their position on the issue is better.

Awards for Essay Contest Winners are as follows:

1st Place: \$100.00 Prepaid Gift Card	2nd Place: \$75.00 Prepaid Gift Card
3rd Place: \$50.00 Prepaid Gift Card	4th Place: \$25.00 Prepaid Gift Card

- In addition, **each winning student’s teacher will receive a \$50.00 prepaid gift card** to use for their classroom.
- **Teachers**, please note that each class is limited to submitting 5 essays.

STUDENTS: Please submit essays and entry form to your teacher.

TEACHERS: Please submit all student essays no later than **APRIL 19, 2019**, to:

Samantha J. Jonas
Muskegon County Prosecutor’s Office
990 Terrace Street, 5th Floor
Muskegon, MI 49442
(231) 724-6382
jonassa@co.muskegon.mi.us



MUSKEGON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LAW DAY 2019 ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Student's Full Name: _____

Student's Home Phone Number: _____

Student's Email Address: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Email Address: _____

Student's Age: _____ Student's Grade: _____

Name of School: _____

Name of Teacher: _____

School Phone Number: _____

Signature of Entrant: _____

Eligibility: Muskegon County 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.

Notification: Winners will be notified by e-mail or phone. Winners and teachers will be invited to attend the Muskegon County Bar Association Law Day Luncheon on Friday, May 3, 2019, from 11:30am – 1:00pm at the Muskegon Holiday Inn.

Deadline: Entries must be received by 5:00 pm April 19, 2019.

Requirements: Entries must be 300-500 words, typed, double-spaced. A completed entry form must be included with each essay.

Submit to: Samantha J. Jonas
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