



## MUSKEGON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LAW DAY 2019

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Speech 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 speech 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 the right to free speech increased or diminished in school.

Speeches must be **no longer than FOUR MINUTES**. 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 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Speech Contest Winners are as follows:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$2,000.00 Scholarship**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$500.00 Scholarship**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$1,000.00 Scholarship**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Place: \$250.00 Scholarship**

**EACH SCHOOL IS LIMITED TO TWO STUDENTS.** However, we do have the discretion to allow more participants.

**TEACHERS:** Please submit any questions and the names of your final two students to:

Jenny McNeill  
990 Terrace, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Muskegon, MI 49442  
(231) 724-6203  
[freesma@muskegoncounty.net](mailto:freesma@muskegoncounty.net)



**MUSKEGON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LAW DAY 2019**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Grade Speech Contest Entry Form**

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College Planning to Attend: \_\_\_\_\_

College Identification Number (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Guests attending the luncheon (limit 2 guests per student): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Entrant: \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility:** Muskegon County 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Notification:** Speech contest will be held at the **Muskegon Holiday Inn, May 3, 2019** and all participants will be invited to attend the Muskegon County Bar Association Law Day Luncheon at the **Muskegon Holiday Inn on Friday, May 3, 2019 from 11:30am – 1:00pm**. Winners will be announced at the luncheon.

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

**Requirements:** A completed entry form must be submitted for each contestant.

**Submit to:** Jenny McNeill  
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