

GRAND LODGE  
FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

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*Chairman*



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## 2019-2020 GRAND LODGE AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

# *“What Does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me?”*

I am pleased to announce that Members of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee have selected the theme, **“What Does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me”** for the 2019-2020 Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. The contest starts with the Local Lodges, progresses through District and State levels, and ends with the naming of our National Winners at the Grand Lodge Session in Baltimore, Maryland in July 2020. This very important Patriotic Contest gives school children in grades 5-8 the opportunity to express views on their pride in America.

Nationally, first-place, second-place and third-place winners in each division will receive bronze plaques. Many Lodges, Districts and State Associations also may offer different types of awards to their winners.

Now is the time for all Lodges to contact their local school districts and provide them with the new topic. Ask them to add the essay contest to their fall curriculum. The same material accompanying this letter, and also a fillable Certificate of Participation for schools that participated in the contest, may be found at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm>.

This contest is most important because it involves school children in your area, showing them Americanism at its best. The contest also demonstrates that Members of your Lodge are proud to be Americans, proud to be Elks and proud to participate in the Americanism programs of Grand Lodge. Your Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee is committed to serving and assisting you as we all show pride in America.

May God continue to bless America. God bless the Elks and may God bless each of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Ramsey".

Dennis A. Ramsey, *Chairman*  
*Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee*



# 2019-2020 AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST COVER SHEET



*(MUST be attached to each Essay)*

## “What Does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me”

### Section 1 — to be filled out by student

**Division I: 5th or 6th Grade**

*(Circle One)*

**Division II: 7th or 8th Grade**

School \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Male  Female

Age \_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_ Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
*(used only to contact the winners)*

Send to Local Lodge no later than December 15, 2019.

### Section 2 — to be filled out by Lodge Chairman

Chairman's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman's Home Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Lodge Name & Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

*Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the District Americanism Chairman by January 31, 2020 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 Home Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

*Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the State Americanism Chairman by February 28, 2020 or the date established by the State Chairman. (Top three only, do not separate as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)*

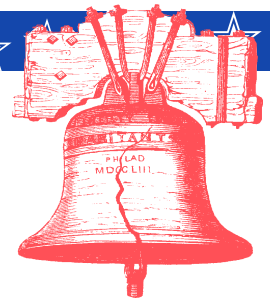
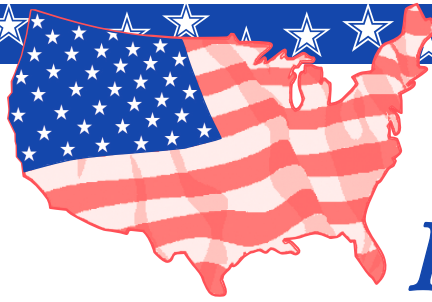
### Section 4 — to be filled out by State Chairman

Chairman's Name \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman's Home Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

*Select the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners for your State and send the 1st place winner from each division to the Contest Administrator, David P. Cioe, by March 31, 2020.*



# “What Does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me”

## Essay Contest

Sponsored by Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of The United States of America

### RULES:

1. Eligible participants must be Students enrolled in the 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grade at the time of the contest.
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 nearest to the address of the entrant.
5. Participant must be identified by name, grade, school attending and sponsoring Elks Lodge on the Essay.

### AWARDS:

Plaques will be awarded by the Grand Lodge for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place for national winning essays in Division I and Division II. Winners will be announced at the Grand Lodge Session in Baltimore, Maryland, July 5-8, 2020.

### ENTRY DATE:

Essay should be submitted to local Elks Lodge on/before December 15, 2019.

*The Essay Contest Cover Sheet must be completed for each level of competition and remain attached to the Essay.*

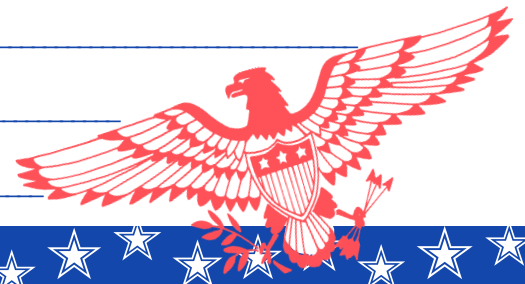


Sponsoring Elks Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_





2019-2020

## AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

### Essay Theme: *“What Does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me”*

1. Eligible participants must be a student enrolled in the fifth, sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the normal 2019-20 school year, preceding June 30, 2020. **Deadline: Must be submitted to Local Lodge by December 15, 2019.**
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 Lodge nearest to home address of 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.)
6. Judging criteria:
  - Originality: Avoid the use of trite or worn out words and phrases – 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 two divisions for judging essays:

  - Division 1 (combined fifth and sixth grades)
  - Division 2 (combined seventh and eighth grades)

#### **PROCEDURES FOR LODGE AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN**

Select from submitted entries the top three essays from each division and send the six essays to the District Americanism Chairman by Jan. 31, 2020, or the date established by the State Association.

#### **PROCEDURES FOR DISTRICT AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN**

Select the top three essays in each division from entries submitted by Local Lodges and send the six essays to the State Americanism Chairman by Feb. 28, 2020, 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, 2020.*)

**SEND TO: Essay Contest Administrator David P. Cioe, Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee, 6 Francis Street, Barrington, RI 02806-2709.**

Plaques for first-, second-, and third-place winning essays in Divisions I and II will be available for pickup at the Fraternal Committee's Booth at the end of the Grand Lodge Session on July 7, 2020.