



SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY – ESSEX VICINAGE

2020 LAW DAY

WRITING CONTEST RULES

Instructions: Thank you for your interest in the 2020 Writing Contest.
Please register online at <http://www.njcourts.gov/courts/vicinages/essex/lawday.html>

Theme: Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100

"In 2019-2020, the United States is commemorating the centennial of the transformative constitutional amendment that guaranteed the right of citizens to vote would not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex. American women fought for, and won, the vote through their voice and action. The women's suffrage movement forever changed America, expanding representative democracy and inspiring other popular movements for constitutional change and reform. Yet, honest reflection on the suffrage movement reveals complexity and tensions over race and class that remain part of the ongoing story of the Nineteenth Amendment and its legacies. The Law Day 2020 theme urges all of us to explore these legacies while also encouraging citizens to exercise their rights and responsibilities as voters."

Excerpt from the American Bar Association Law Day website
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/law-day/

Resources: Teachers, coordinators or students may visit the following websites to obtain additional information regarding the 2020 Law Day theme and the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

- www.lawday.org
- <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/womenshistory/teach-19th-amendment.htm>
- <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/suffrage/history2.htm>
- <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xix>

Content: The writing contest is open to all **Essex County middle and high school students**. Students may submit essays or poems that incorporate the 2020 Law Day theme and discuss issues pertaining to the theme and the court in students' own words. Essay content should incorporate thoughtful consideration of the following:

- 1) What was the purpose of the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as originally envisioned? What role does it play in current day society? How would society be without it?
- 2) When did New Jersey give women the right to vote? How does this compare with neighboring states?
- 3) What was the 19th century view of a woman's role and how did this ideal of womanhood influence attitudes about suffrage?

Format: An essay of 250 to 300 words or a poem of 4 to 6 stanzas.

Judging: **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE TYPED** and formatted in MS Word (*Times New Roman or Arial fonts*) or copy and pasted into the body of an email. Essay and poems will be judged on content and presentation. A teacher, group coordinator or a parent should review entries for spelling and grammatical edits prior to submission. Paraphrases and/or quotes must contain references. First place, second place, third place and honorable mention(s) will be selected. Winners will be acknowledged via email June 2020.

Identification: Each entry must include the following information in the document or body of email:

- (1) Title of work (if applicable)
- (2) Student's name
- (3) Student's grade and age
- (4) School or group name
- (5) Teacher or group coordinator name (If registering as part of a school or group)

Deadline: Submissions accepted **now until May 22, 2020.**

Disclaimer: All entries become the property of the Superior Court of New Jersey - Essex Vicinage. Students are encouraged to keep copies of their entries. Excerpts from submissions may be displayed in Judiciary publications and/or the website. Entries will not be used for commercial purposes.

Submissions: Essays and/or poems should be formatted as a **MS Word** document or copy and pasted into the body of an email then sent to EssexLawDay.mbox@njcourts.gov. Remember to include the information from the "Identification" section above to the body of the email.

ONLY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Questions or concerns may emailed to the Essex Vicinage Office of the Ombudsman at EssexLawDay.mbox@njcourts.gov