



SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY – ESSEX VICINAGE

2025 LAW DAY

WRITING CONTEST RULES

Instructions: Thank you for your interest in the 2025 Writing Contest. Please register online at <https://www.njcourts.gov/essex-law-day>.

Theme: The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One

“The Constitution enshrines our collective responsibility to one another, and the 2025 Law Day themes urges us to take pride in a Constitution that bridges our differences to bring us together as united nation. Our civic lives tie us together as one “We,” whether through legislative efforts that serve the common good, through military service, or by working together, every day, to fulfill the promise of E pluribus unum, or Out of many, one. The Constitution boldly asserts “We the People, in Order to Form a More Perfect Union,” and on this Law Day, we explore and renew our obligations to one another under the Constitution and our democratic norms. The Constitution establishes a framework for government that provides limits and guardrails, including our representative government, jury service, and a regular Census. And through this commitment to unity, we all provide for the common good through government responses to national responses to crises and natural disasters, and through community and advocacy programs for students and adults.”

The above information was retrieved from the American Bar Association website [Law Day \(americanbar.org\)](http://www.americanbar.org).

Resources: Teachers, coordinators, or students may visit the following websites to obtain additional information regarding the 2025 Law Day theme. These resources and instructional guidance will encourage students to reflect on the Constitution’s role in promoting unity and justice, while also addressing the challenges that diversity presents in a democratic society. It invites exploration of how the U.S. Constitution serves as a unifying force for the diverse population of the United States, emphasizing equality, liberty, and justice.

- ABA 2025 Law Day Guide at [Law Day \(americanbar.org\)](http://www.americanbar.org)
- bensguide.gpo.gov
- www.constitutioncenter.org
- <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org>
- <https://www.icivics.org>

Content: The writing contest is open to all **Essex County middle and high school students**. Students may submit essays or poems that incorporate the 2025 Law Day theme and discuss issues pertaining to the theme and the court in the students' own words. Listed below is some suggested content to get the students started. Submissions are not limited to the suggestions below.

- What is the purpose of amendments? What would happen if there were no amendments? What would happen if individual rights were not protected?
- What does the phrase "Out of Many, One" mean in the context of the U.S. Constitution, and how does it reflect the country's approach to diversity?
- What challenges does the Constitution face in promoting unity among a country with such diverse political, cultural, and social beliefs?
- What is the significance of the "We the People" preamble in the Constitution, and how does it reflect the vision of a united nation formed by people of diverse backgrounds and experiences.

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

Judging: **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE STUDENTS ORIGINAL WORK AND TYPED** using Times New Roman font formatted in MS Word or copied and pasted into the body of an email. Essay and poems will be judged on originality, content, and presentation. A teacher, group coordinator or a parent should review entries for spelling and grammatical edits prior to submission. Paraphrases, quotes and AI resources must contain references or proper citation. Plagiarism is defined as using someone else's work without giving them proper credit. Submissions that are identified as such will immediately be disqualified. Submissions should also refrain from using threatening, offensive, or abusive language. First place, second place, third place and honorable mention(s) may be selected. Winners will be acknowledged at an awards ceremony in May 2025.

Identification: Include the following information for each submission:

- (1) Title (if applicable)
- (2) Student's name and mailing address
- (3) Student's grade and age
- (4) School or group name
- (5) Teacher or group coordinator name (if applicable)
- (6) Parent or guardian name, telephone number and email address.

Deadline: Submissions will be accepted **between February 24 to March 14, 2025.**

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 website. Entries will not be used for commercial purposes.

Submissions: **ELECTRONICALLY**
Essays and/or poems should be formatted as a **MS Word** document using Times New Roman font and emailed as an attachment to EssexLawDay.Mbx@njcourts.gov. Include the information from the “Identification” section above on the first page of each submission at the top left of the page. Essays may also be copied and pasted into the body of an email.

MAIL TO:
Superior Court of NJ – Essex
Veterans Courthouse
50 West Market Street, Room 132
Newark NJ 07102
Attn: Ombudsman’s Office – Law Day Contest

DROP OFF – During office hours Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the address listed above, between **February 24 to March 14, 2025.**

Questions or concerns:
Contact the Essex Vicinage Ombudsman’s Office
Email: EssexLawDay.Mbx@njcourts.gov
Telephone: (973) 776-9300 ext. 56886