



## Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society Mondale-Quie Essay Contest

The Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society, with the support of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates and the Civil Litigation Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, is sponsoring an essay contest that is open to Minnesota high school juniors and seniors. Students have an opportunity receive up to \$1,000 in scholarship money as they examine the role of the judiciary in our society.

### **Mondale-Quie Essay Contest Issue for 2022-23:**

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution states, “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” For nearly 200 years, the Second Amendment received little attention. During the second half of the 20th Century, however, debate emerged regarding the government’s ability to regulate gun ownership as a means of controlling violent crime. This debate became more intense after a series of high-profile mass shootings in American schools.

With advancements in technology and changes in society, the application of the Second Amendment has presented new challenges and controversies overtime.

**Question to be answered:** How can the Second Amendment and Constitution, more generally, be interpreted or amended to protect schools and other communities most affected by gun violence?

Arguments could include:

- Interpreting the Second Amendment to apply only to service in a state militia
- Interpreting the Second Amendment as prohibiting limits on gun possession on public property
- Interpreting the Second Amendment as permitting carrying a concealed weapons
- Interpreting the Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution as permitting regulations of guns to the extent necessary to ensure persons are not deprived of life, liberty, and property.



## MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Important Dates:

<b>Online Contest Registration Begins:</b>	<b>October 18, 2022</b>
<b>Online Essay Submission Deadline:</b>	<b>January 17, 2023</b>
<b>Announcement of Winners:</b>	<b>March 31, 2023</b>
<b>Awards Luncheon:</b>	<b>May 2023</b>

Winners will be announced via email and online at <https://mncourthistory.wildapricot.org/Essay-Contest>.

Awards will be distributed before the close of the school year at an awards ceremony or via U.S. mail if winners are unable to attend the awards ceremony or the awards ceremony cannot happen in person.

### What is the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society?

The Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society (“MSCHS”) was founded by lawyers, educators, judges, and other legal professionals who have a deep and abiding interest in the history of this State and the profound role that Minnesota's courts have played in that history. Our mission is to collect, preserve, and promote Minnesota's judicial history and to serve the interests of the bench and bar, the academic community, and the general public through educational programs, publications, and support of scholarly research.

### Contest Objective

High school juniors and seniors must prepare to engage in everyday civil society where significant issues involving historical and constitutional issues arise; therefore, the Mondale-Quie Essay Contest issue has been developed to:

- Provide high school students with an understanding of the judiciary, including its role in society;
- Engage high school teachers and students in the exploration of the role of the judiciary in their lives; and
- Challenge high school students to strengthen their analytic and writing skills.

### Eligibility

Minnesota high school students in grades 11 and 12 who attend a public or private school (including charter and alternative-learning programs) or who are home-schooled in Minnesota are eligible to apply.



## ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

*ANY ENTRY THAT DOES NOT CONFORM TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.*

### Format

- Type essay in English — free from spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors.
- Use Arial or Times New Roman font, 12-point
- Double-space essay with 1” margins – top, bottom, right, and left.
- Place essay title on first page, top center
- Include your **first and last name** and page number on all pages, top right.

### Length

The essay must be between 750 and 1,250 words. State the number of words used at the end of your essay text, prior to the bibliography or works-cited page.

Word count excludes the bibliography or works-cited page, works cited in footnotes or endnotes, if such are used.

To obtain essay word count without the number of words used in the bibliography or works cited, highlight essay text only, go to computer word-count tool (under tools on computer tool bar). The word-count tool will read only the highlighted words.

### Bibliography – Works Cited

**A minimum of four books, academic journals, news magazines, newspapers, court cases, summaries of court cases, government documents or publications are required for research on this year's assigned topic.** With the exception of the Lesson Plans for Teachers, all of the resource suggestions starting on page 5 are acceptable. You are not required to use, nor are you limited to, the resource suggestions starting on page 5.

A bibliography or works-cited page is required to identify research sources and should follow the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines. For more information, refer to the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition at



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<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01>. (Click on links in left column for more in-depth instruction.)

Research should include sources that examine more than one side of the issue. General encyclopedias (e.g., Wikipedia, Britannica, Americana, and World Book) are unacceptable resources.

Online databases that index reference books, journals, magazines and newspapers are valid sources and must be cited according to the Modern Language Association's guidelines. See again: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01>.

**The bibliography or works-cited page should be on a separate page at the conclusion of the essay.**



## RESOURCE SUGGESTIONS

Below are resources that you may, but are not required to, consider. You are not limited to these resources.

### Constitutions

Second Amendment to the [United States Constitution](#):

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

U.S. Const, amend II.

Excerpt of **Fourth Amendment** to the [United States Constitution](#):

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

U.S. Const, amend IV.

Excerpt of **Fifth Amendment** to the [United States Constitution](#):

No person shall . . . be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law . . . .

U.S. Const, amend V.

Excerpt of **Fourteenth Amendment** to the [United States Constitution](#):

No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.



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Excerpt of **Article I, Section 16** of the [Minnesota Constitution](#)

The enumeration of rights in this constitution shall not deny or impair others retained by and inherent in the people.<sup>1</sup>

Minn. Const., art. I, sec. 16.

## **Cases**

*District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) Summaries:

[Bill of Rights Institute](#)

[The National Constitution Center](#)

[McDonald v. Chicago \(2010\) \(Summary\)](#)

[Application of Atkinson \(1980\) \(Minnesota Supreme Court case\)](#)

## **Websites**

Britannica: [Second Amendment United States Constitution](#)

Legal Information Institute: [Second Amendment](#)

[US Government: Second Amendment](#)

[Second Amendment Facts for Kids](#)

## **Articles**

[“2nd Amendment: Original Meaning and Purpose”](#)

[“Why It’s Time to Repeal the Second Amendment”](#)

[“Repeal Deadly Gun-Free Zones”](#)

[“What is a ‘Gun-Free Zone,’ and What’s Behind the Movement to Get Rid of Them”](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Note the Minnesota Constitution contains no express right to bear arms.



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[“How the NRA resurrected the Second Amendment”](#)

**Videos**

[What are “Sensitive Places” under the Second Amendment? - YouTube](#)

[Second Amendment | Civics 101 | PBS LearningMedia](#)

[Second Amendment \(Introductory Level\) - YouTube](#)

[Second Amendment \(High School/College\) - YouTube](#)

[The Second Amendment \(video\) | Khan Academy](#)

**Podcasts**

[More Perfect: The Gun Show](#) from October 12, 2017

Civics 101: A Podcast [“The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment”](#)



## **Judging Criteria — *Total points possible – 100 points***

Submission will be judged using the following criteria:

- **Position Analysis** (30 points)
  - **Your essay must state your position, which must be:**
    - **Clearly stated**
    - **Well-reasoned**
    - **Well-focused**
- **Support for position** (20 points)
- **Your position should be supported by source materials provide below, other materials, or both.**
- **Impact of Your Position** (20 points)
  - **You essay must state the impact your position has, including, where appropriate, on students. You must provide examples of the impact of your position.**
- **Mechanics** (10 points)
  - **Your essay must contain few or no grammar, spelling, punctuation or capitalization errors, and include appropriate and varied word choice**
- **Organization and form** (20 points)
  - **Your essay should be well organized and include:**
    - **A clear introduction**
    - **A discussion portion with supporting analysis**
    - **A clear conclusion**
  - **Your essay must follow the requirements for format and length. It must also include a bibliography**





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### **Timeline**

Online Registration Begins: October 18, 2022

#### **Registration Process**

- Visit [www.mncourthistory.org](http://www.mncourthistory.org) and click on the “Register Here” link
- Complete all required fields. **Please include your first and last name**
- Click “Send”

Essay Submission Deadline: **January 17, 2023**

#### **Submission Process**

- Email your essay and bibliography/works cited page to [director.mschs@gmail.com](mailto:director.mschs@gmail.com)

### **Prizes**

The MSCHS will award scholarships to the top three essays: First Place: \$1,000; Second Place: \$750; Third Place \$500. Scholarship recipients must complete and sign a release form and, if the student is under the age of 18, that form must be co-signed by the student’s parent/guardian. (Where the co-signature is required, the parent/guardian must also sign the parent/guardian release form at the bottom of the page.) Winners will be contacted and mailed the release form, which must be completed and returned within 10 working days. (A sample of the release form appears at the end of this packet.)

***There is no entry fee for participating.***



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## Essay Contest Checklist

### Deadlines:

- Complete online registration at <https://mncourthistory.wildapricot.org/Essay-Contest> (and include both your first **and last name**)
- Submit essay online NO LATER than January 17, 2023**

### Essay Format:

- Essay is written in English and free from spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors
- Essay is typed in Arial or Times New Roman font, 12-point, and is double-spaced
- Pages are formatted with 1" margins on all sides
- Essay has title on first page at the top and centered
- Essay contains writer's first and last name and a page number on each page in the top right corner
- Essay is 750 to 1,250 words and word count is noted at the end of the work before the bibliography (refer to the essay requirements about what words to count and how to obtain a word count)

### Bibliography:

- Essay contains a bibliography or works-cited page on a separate page at the end
- A MINIMUM of 4 works have been cited (see essay requirements for acceptable works)



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## **Lesson Plans for Teachers (Not for Use in Essay Contest)**

Interactive Constitution, "[2ND AMENDMENT: THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS](#)" from the National Constitution Center

"[How Has the Second Amendment Been Interpreted?](#)" from the Bill of Rights Institute

"[Gun's and School Safety](#)" from Constitutional Rights Foundation

"[Debating the Second Amendment: Balancing safety and guns](#)" from the Leonore Annenberg Institute for Civics

"[To Keep & Bear Arms: An Individual or Collective Right?](#)" from McCormick Freedom Museum



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**Release Form:**

*Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society (MSCHS) Mondale-Quie  
Essay Contest*

*The release form must be fully completed and submitted by winners in order to receive an award. Each winner will be notified and mailed the release, which must be returned to the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society Education Committee within 10 working days.*

**Student Release Form**

Name: (please print first and last name) \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: School information is not required for home-schooled students.*

School: \_\_\_\_\_

I state as follows:

1. I have read and accept the terms of the contest guidelines for the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society (MSCHS) Mondale-Quie Essay Contest (hereinafter the "Competition").
2. I warrant and represent that I personally created the essay that I submitted to the Competition. I further warrant and represent that the essay I submitted has not been published before its submission to this Competition and that any reference material I have used has been properly cited and not plagiarized.
3. I am a high school student in the 11th or 12th grade in Minnesota.
4. I am 18 years old or older, or, if I am younger than 18 years old, I have obtained the countersignature of my parent or legal guardian at the bottom of my release form.
5. I hereby release, discharge and hold harmless the MSCHS and its successors, assigns, officers, employees, and agents associated with the Competition from and against any and all liability, loss, damage, expense, claims, settlements, or judgments of any kind whatsoever, including attorneys' fees, whether in contract or in tort, arising directly or indirectly as a result of my participation in the Competition, and my acceptance and use of a prize awarded to me.



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6. I consent to the use of my name, relevant biographical data and related pictures, portraits, photographs, voice or likeness, in any form of the essay entered by me in the Competition for editorial, advertising, promotional, and trade purposes in connection with the promotion by the MSCHS of this Competition and succeeding programs sponsored by the MSCHS. I release the MSCHS from all liabilities arising out of distortion, optical illusions, or faulty mechanical reproductions of my likeness. I acknowledge that I have no right to approve the advertising or promotional materials that include my likeness or the essay submitted by me to the Competition.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's or legal guardian's countersignature (if student is under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Please print name here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent or Guardian Release Form**

(To be completed by parent or guardian of a student under age 18.)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby represent and warrant that I am the parent or legal guardian of the identified student and that I accept the same legal obligations in connection with this Competition, including but not limited to, the use of the minor's name, likeness and essay, and consent to the minor named herein accepting and receiving a prize. I also hereby release, discharge and hold harmless the MSCHS, successors, assigns, officers, employees and agents associated with the Competition from and against any and all liability, loss, damage, expense, claims, settlements or judgments of any kind whatsoever, including attorney's fees, whether in contract or in tort, which I or my heirs, executors or administrators may have arising directly or indirectly as a result of the minor's participation in the Competition and acceptance and receipt of a prize.

Name: (please print first and last name) \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_