



MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 2019-2020:

2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, extending the right to vote to most women. The amendment reads, “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

Throughout American history, other amendments to the United States Constitution, state, and local laws have expanded the right to vote in local, state, and federal elections. Currently, there are proposals across the country to expand voting rights to felons, non-citizens, and 16-year-olds.

Question to be answered: In light of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, discuss whether the right to vote should be expanded further and, if so, to what groups. Explain your reasoning.

Students could consider, among other topics, the 15th Amendment, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the 26th Amendment, state “Restore the Vote” movements, efforts to extend the franchise to noncitizens, the movement to lower the voting age to 16, and that states have primary responsibility for setting rules for, and administering, elections.



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Important Dates:

Online Contest Registration Begins:	October 15, 2019
Online Essay Submission Deadline:	January 21, 2020
Announcement of Winners:	March 29, 2020
Awards Luncheon:	May 2020

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.

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 on page 5 are acceptable. You are not required to use, nor are you limited to, the resource suggestions 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



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Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition at <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, World Book) are unacceptable resources. Reputable free web sources may be used only to obtain primary source materials (*i.e.* Internet Modern History Sourcebook), and the bibliography or works cited must list the primary document source as the reference.

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.

Constitutional Provisions

U.S. Const., Amend XIX.

Minn. Const., art. VII, section 2: Eligibility; place of voting; ineligible persons. Every person 18 years of age or more who has been a citizen of the United States for three months and who has resided in the precinct for 30 days next preceding an election shall be entitled to vote in that precinct. The place of voting by one otherwise qualified who has changed his residence within 30 days preceding the election shall be prescribed by law. The following persons shall not be entitled or permitted to vote at any election in this state: A person not meeting the above requirements; a person who has been convicted of treason or felony, unless restored to civil rights; a person under guardianship, or a person who is insane or not mentally competent.

Cases

[Minor v Happersett \(1875\)](#) information from the National Park Service

[United States v. Susan B. Anthony \(1873\)](#) from “Famous Trials” by Douglass O. Linder

Information about [Leser v. Garnett \(1922\)](#)

Websites

[Voting Rights Timeline](#), Center for Civic Education

[The Nineteenth Amendment by Nancy Gertner and Gail Heriot](#) from the Interactive Constitution made by the National Constitution Center.

[19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Women’s Right to Vote \(1920\)](#) from Our Documents website.

[19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Primary Documents in American History](#): A Library of Congress Research Guide.



Articles

[Restore the Vote – Minnesota website](#)

[Minnesota Election Laws](#) from the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon

“[Restoring the vote would move Minnesota closer to the democratic ideal](#)” by John Gordon, *MinnPost*, March 7, 2019.

“[Earlier restoration of felons' right to vote would be wrong](#)” by Andrew E. Cilek and Cindy Pugh, *Star Tribune*, February 5, 2019.

“[Growing effort to restore felons' right to vote moves ahead in House](#)” by Jonathan Avise, *Minnesota House of Representatives Session Daily*, February 13, 2019.

“[Over 1 Million Florida Felons Win Right To Vote With Amendment 4](#),” by Tim Mak, *National Public Radio*, November 7, 2018.

“[Immigrants are getting the right to vote in cities across America](#)” by John Haltiwanger, *Newsweek*, September 13, 2017.

“[Should 16-year-olds be able to vote? A majority of the D.C. Council thinks so](#)” by Reis Thebault, *Washington Post*, June 27, 2018.

“[14 Lowering the Voting Age to 16 Pros and Cons](#)” by Natalie Regoli, *Vittana*.

Audio/Video

[Should Non-U.S. Citizens Be Allowed To Vote In Local Elections?](#) by Jane Lindholm & Ric Cengeri, *Fresh Air*, August 28, 2018.

[Voting Age: Should It Be Lowered to 16?](#), Above the Noise, January 23, 2019.



Judging Criteria — *Total points possible – 100 points*

Submission will be judged using the following criteria:

- **Organization** – use of introduction, discussion, and conclusion (20 points)
 - **Your essay should be well organized and include:**
 - **A clear introduction**
 - **A discussion portion with many supporting details**
 - **A clear conclusion**
- **Position Analysis and Support** (30 points)
 - **Your essay must state your position, which must be:**
 - **Clearly stated**
 - **Logical**
 - **Well-focused**
 - **Supported by many details or examples**
- **Impact of Your Position on Students** (20 points)
 - **Your essay must include a clear statement of the impact and many examples**
- **Mechanics** (15 points)
 - **Your essay must contain few or no grammar, spelling, punctuation or capitalization errors, and include appropriate and varied word choice**
- **Form** (15 points)
 - **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 25, 2019

Registration Process

- Visit 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 21, 2020**

Submission Process

- Email your essay and bibliography/works cited page to 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 21, 2020**

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)

[“Voting! What’s It All About?”](#) 8 Lesson plans from Read Write Think.

[“Expanding Voting Rights”](#) 5 Lesson plans from Teaching Tolerance.

[“Modernizing America: 1889-1920”](#) Lesson plan and resources from Women and the American Story by the New York Historical Society.



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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.
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



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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: _____