

Hello!

Each year the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors an Americanism Essay contest. This year's theme is:

**“Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for our Freedom.”**

This contest is open to any student in grades 3-12. This opportunity is for classes, students or children who may be interested in participating. In total there are 6 different classes in which students can compete based on the various grade levels.

I have included the cover sheet for the contest. On the sheet are the guidelines that must be followed for the essay to qualify for the contest. The cover sheet must also be completed, signed and turned in with the final essay.

At the local (unit) level, there will be monetary prizes for the first (\$35), second (\$20), and third (\$10) place winners in each class. Each of the first place essays will be sent in for further competition at the state (department) level. Students who place at the local level will be invited to share their essays with the local Auxiliary Unit at the May meeting.

The essays are due March 1, 2026. You may send completed hardcopy essays to the address below or through interschool mail to Wilson Middle School if you are in the Appleton Area School District. Electronic versions of the essays may be sent to [jklemp31@gmail.com](mailto:jklemp31@gmail.com) or [klempjennifer@aasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:klempjennifer@aasd.k12.wi.us). If you send the essay electronically, do not forget to send the completed cover sheet as well!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at the emails above.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Klemp  
Americanism Chair  
American Legion Auxiliary, Appleton Unit 38

Please send hard copy entries to:  
Jennifer Klemp  
225 N. Badger Ave.  
Appleton, WI 54914



Department of Wisconsin

# AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2026 SUBMISSION FORM

**Essay Title:** "Celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for our Freedom."

**Department:** 1st place winning entry in each class will receive \$50 from Department and will be forwarded to Central Division for further competition. 2nd place winning entry in each class will receive \$25 from Department and 3rd thru 5th place winning entries in each class will receive \$10.

**National:** One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) after Convention.

**Materials and Guidelines:** The contest shall include six classes.

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement:
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level

### Essay Checklist:

- Class competing in \_\_\_\_\_
- Sponsoring ALA Unit \_\_\_\_\_
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay \_\_\_\_\_
- Due date for student to return to ALA Unit \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Note: Checks are sent directly to awarded students. Please print student's name and mailing address clearly.**

### To be completed by the student and parent/guardian:

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade level: \_\_\_\_\_ Word Count: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (City/State/Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

Student or Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_

School (City/State/Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

**Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered):**

Sponsoring Unit City location & number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit Winner due to Department Chairman on March 15, 2026**

**Department: WI Signature of Department Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Send to: Deanna Farley, W14870 Kimball Lane, Silver Cliff WI 54104**