



Students invited to submit essay on Constitution for contest

ARLINGTON, Va. - The deadline for high-school students and their teachers to submit essays for the Bill of Rights Institute's national Being an American Essay Contest is Dec. 15. The contest asks students to explore the founding principles outlined in the Constitution by answering the question: "How does the Constitution establish and maintain a culture of liberty?"

The contest, which has quickly become the largest high-school essay competition of its kind, is administered by the Bill of Rights Institute, a nonprofit educational organization in the Washington, D.C., area devoted to educating young people about the Constitution and founding principles.

The top three student winners from each of five geographical regions will be awarded cash prizes of \$1,000 (first place), \$500 (second place) and \$250 (third place). Teacher sponsors of each student winner will also receive a cash prize of \$100.

Essays must be submitted online at BillofRightsInstitute.org/Contest by 2:59 a.m. on Dec. 16. The Contest is sponsored by the History Channel.

The Essay Contest serves as a key part of the Bill of Rights Institute's mission to educate young people about the words and ideas of America's Founders, the liberties guaranteed in our founding documents, and how our founding principles continue to affect and shape a free society.

Students in grades nine through 12 who are U.S. citizens or legal residents, and are either attending public, private, religious or charter schools, are home-schooled, or are participating in a GED or correspondence school programs but are no older than 19 years of age are invited to participate.

Essays should be no more 1,000 words, and will be judged on their adherence to essay question, originality, organization, writing style and depth of analysis. Winners will be announced in February 2012.

For more information and complete contest rules, visit BillofRightsInstitute.org/Contest.