



# 2020 State Essay Competition

Competition Type – Individual

## Contest Purpose

Being able to express one's thoughts clearly in written form is critical to success in almost any field, including education. The purpose of the essay competition is to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their writing skills, as well as to express their views on a current topic in education. The topic for the 2020 Essay Competition focuses on elective courses in high school.

**In an effort to save money, some school districts have eliminated elective subjects such as art, band, and auto mechanics. Conduct research on the pros and cons of elective subjects such as arts in schools and form your own opinion. Be sure to record what sources you read during the course of your research so that you can cite those you use in your essay. Write an essay stating your position and supporting it with convincing reasons from your research and possibly your own experience.**

## Competition Guidelines

- A. Only one entry per chapter per FGE Day. Chapters may wish to hold a local competition to determine who will compete at FGE Day.
- B. Entry must contain the following identification information at the top of the document:
  - Student's name
  - Student's school
  - School system
  - FEA advisor's nameThis information does **not** count in the essay's word limit (see B below).
- C. Essays must range from 1,000 to 1,250 words. Other than the title of the essay and the information identification information at the top (see A above), every word of the essay is counted using Microsoft Word's word count tool.
- D. Essays must be written in English.
- E. Essay responses should be supported by information from sources related to the topic, all of which must be included in a Works Cited list.
- F. Contestants must include references and cite all of their sources of information in a Works Cited list. Please use care to avoid plagiarism; plagiarized essays will be disqualified. **Essays without a Works Cited section will also be disqualified.**
- G. All entries become the property of PAGE, who assumes all rights and privileges to use.

## Judging and Scoring

- A. The judges' decisions are final.
- B. Scoring is based on the Essay Competition rubric (see Judge's Rating Sheet in this PDF).

## Eligibility/How to Enter

- A. To be eligible to compete, a student must have attended an FGE Day during the current school year.
- B. Only one student per chapter may enter.
- C. Type your essay as a Word document, carefully following the Competition Guidelines above.
- D. Entry process is paperless. We will utilize an online form which contains a link to upload your essay electronically in Word document format. **Entry must be submitted by midnight on March 13, 2020.**

*See next page for scoring rubric.*

# ESSAY COMPETITION

## Judge's Scoring Rubric

Contestant's Name:

Contestant's School:

*(Points awarded may range between zero and the maximum number indicated.)*

Is the essay is on the stated topic?                      YES                      NO

Does it include a Works Cited list?                      YES                      NO

If yes to both, continue with the scoring process. If no on either, do not continue with the scoring process.

<b>A. GUIDELINES</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Points Assigned</b>
The essay is between 1,000 and 1,250 words. Score 5 if within limits; score 0 if not within limits.	5	
The essay cites sources of information within the body of the essay.	10	
<b>B. TOPIC ORGANIZATION</b>		
The essay clearly presents a main idea (thesis) and supports it throughout the paper.	10	
The essay is well-planned and well-thought out. Includes introduction, statement of main idea, convincing and relevant data and evidence to back up the main idea, and conclusion that strengthens the claim and evidence.	20	
<b>C. ESSAY CONTENT</b>		
The essay introduces a compelling claim that is clearly arguable and takes a purposeful position on an issue.	10	
The main idea is exceptionally well-presented and argued; ideas are detailed, well-developed, supported with specific evidence & facts, as well as examples and specific details.	15	
Sources are exceptionally well-integrated and they support claims argued in the paper very effectively.	10	
<b>D. MECHANICS/GRAMMAR</b>		
All sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The essay demonstrates mastery of the language and sentence composition that is clear and purposeful. The author makes no errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.	15	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	

**Judges' Comments:**