



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Subject: Message #187: Bill of Rights Student Contest

Date: October 6, 2020

To: ccss@list.state.ar.us

**From: Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary
Education Curriculum Support Unit**

Dear Arkansas Educators,

The United States Courts of Appeals along with the United States District Courts in the Seventh and Eighth Circuits are hosting a Bill of Rights contest and we want YOU to be a part of it!

School aged children in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin are encouraged to submit an essay, poem, video, photograph, song, or piece of art on the importance of the Bill of Rights. Be as creative as you like! Please limit essays to no more than 500 words, and videos to 3-5 minutes or less.

A grand prize winner from each of the three age groups (K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 grade) will be awarded a \$500 cash prize, be able to take part in a virtual event on Wednesday, December 2 with United States District Court Judges and other legal experts on the enduring rights afforded to Americans by the Bill of Rights, and have their name and submission shared on the websites of the participating United States District Courts. Semi-finalists will receive an electronic gift card valued at \$50.

Submissions will be accepted Thursday, October 1, through 5:00pm on Saturday, October 31.

Submissions should be emailed to Education@ilnd.uscourts.gov

Please include the following information with your entry:

- your full name (do not write your name on your actual entry)
- grade
- county and state of residence
- school (or note if homeschooled)
- teacher who told you about the contest, if it was a teacher

Semi-finalists will be notified before Thanksgiving and grand prize winners will be announced at the virtual event on December 2. Must be present to win.

Even if you don't choose to enter the contest, all are welcome for the virtual event on December 2 at 6 pm CST. RSVP is not required, but if you sign up at the following link, you will receive an email reminder with the Zoom invitation in early November - <https://forms.gle/VTbgM5LEgZJPFegY8>

For questions please contact Lauren Thiel at Lauren_Thiel@ilnd.uscourts.gov.

Teachers - make sure you tell your students to list you on their submission forms! All teacher names submitted will be entered into a raffle. The more students you have enter the more chances you have to win. Please forward and share this announcement with other teachers and students who may be interested.

Links:

2 Contest flyers:

-<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12qCCdSdEuyTcjlDW4m4kXaVOtFbDEXtf/view?usp=sharing>

-<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PAYDYwyRYqN17DEo3a1e1ZeTWBhCq1bb/view?usp=sharing>

Event flyer: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-dGuHhDjdoKjeeiEk5Qzrwh2Os-HfJZA/view?usp=sharing>

For more information, please contact:

Lauren M. Thiel
Public Services Administrator
US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
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Chicago, IL 60604

Please share this information with others that might be interested. Thank you for serving the students of Arkansas.

To be added to the DESE Educator ListServ please send your name, e-mail address, and district name to ADE.CandI@arkansas.gov.

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Curriculum Support Unit
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