

## 2011 – 2012 IEA State Americanism Essay Contest

- Participants:** All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the state of Illinois
- Subject:** Patriotism
- Length:** 250-500 words
- Rules:** Must be written in ink or typed on 8 ½ by 11 inch paper  
Double spaced if typed  
Margins: 1 ½ inch from top, 1 inch at bottom and sides
- Judging:**
1. Content
  2. Proper Sentence Structure
  3. Spelling
  4. Proper Paragraph Structure
  5. Neatness
- Although basic mechanics of the writing will be considered, emphasis will be placed on content of the paper.

All papers are to be signed by the student with their name, address and telephone number. Teachers are to select the top three essays from each school and return them to the Lodge Americanism Chairman for winner selections.

- Awards:** The writers of the top three essays from each school will receive participation certificates.  
Each Lodge winner will receive a \$100 Savings Bond.  
Each District winner will receive a \$100 Savings Bond.  
Each Area winner will receive a \$200 Savings Bond, one night's lodging at the annual convention and three tickets to the annual banquet.  
The State winner will receive a \$500 Savings Bond.
- Schedule:** Contest closes March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 Lodge winner will be submitted to District by March 15<sup>th</sup>  
District winner will be submitted to State by March 30<sup>th</sup>  
State winner will be chosen during the May meeting.

Grand Lodge: Lodge Americanism Essay Contest

Theme: **“WHY I AM PROUD TO PLEDGE ALLEGIENCE TO OUR FLAG”**

Entry Rules:

- 1) Eligible participants must be students enrolled in 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> Grades during the normal 2011-2012 school year preceding June 30, 2012.
- 2) Essay length is not to exceed 250 words.
- 3) Essay must be typed or legibly printed in ink.
- 4) Essay must be submitted for judging to the Elks Lodge administering the contest at his/her school or, if unknown, the lodge nearest to the home address of the entrant.
- 5) Entrant must be identified on the essay by name, home address, grade, school attended and sponsoring Lodge (*Lodge may enter Lodge information on Essay.*) **NOTE: State winners must have Social Security numbers attached.**
- 6) **Deadline:** must be submitted to Local Lodge by **January 10, 2012.**
- 7) **Judging Criteria:** **Originality:** avoids the use of trite or worn out words and phrases. **Development of Theme:** stays focused on ideas and thoughts don't ramble. **Mechanics and neatness:** uses proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation.