



## *Lunch with a Signer*

Are you in 5th through 8th grade?  
You're invited to participate in a

## *Essay Contest*

Topic for 2025-2026

*"Lunch with a Signer"*

"Lunch with a Signer" Question: America will celebrate her 250th birthday on July 4, 2026! If you could go back in time and meet one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence for lunch, who would you choose?

How did their actions and service contribute to  
our Country becoming independent?

Open to Grades 5-8  
Length 300-1,000 words (depending on grade level)

For information, contact:

DAR Chapter Charlotte Parkhurst Chapter - Folsom & El Dorado Hills

Contact Chairperson - Genie Hamilton

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National Information Packet 2025 • PART II

**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution**  
**American History Essay**  
**Electronic Contest Title Page\* 2025 – 2026**  
**Grades 5 – 8**

**Title of Essay:**    **Lunch with a Signer**

Subtitle (*optional*) \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's Contact Information (*email and/or complete address*):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's Phone Number (*with area code*) \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's School \_\_\_\_\_

School's Contact Information (*optional*):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsoring DAR Chapter:

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of words in essay (*Grade 5: 300-600 words; Grades 6-8: 600-1,000 words*):

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Any missing information on the title page will result in a lower score when judged.

**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution**  
**AMERICAN HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST 2025–2026**  
(This information is for chapter and school use)

**ALL ESSAYS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY**

<b>TOPIC:</b>	“Lunch with a Signer” Question: America will celebrate her 250th birthday on July 4, 2026! If you could go back in time and meet one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence for lunch, who would you choose? How did their actions and service contribute to our Country becoming independent?
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	<b>All grade 5, 6, 7, and 8 students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are home schoolers, are eligible.</b> An individual student may submit an entry directly to a DAR chapter in their own state if their class or school is not participating. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex, or national origin. <b>DO NOT SUBMIT A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH WITH ENTRY.</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>Grade 5: 300–600 words Grades 6, 7, and 8: 600–1,000 words</b>
<b>FORM:</b>	Essay is to be prepared on a computer, using black type in a non-script font no smaller than 12 point or larger than 14 point. A limited vision student may use Braille, a tape recorder, or very large type. A written transcript must be included, as well as a teacher’s or physician’s letter attesting to the student’s special need. Please note that the entire essay must be the student’s original work. This includes all research, writing, and editing, which must be done by the student themselves and not by a parent, teacher, tutor, AI, or other helper. Each essay must include a <b>completed Title page.</b>
<b>RESOURCES:</b>	<b>Essay must have a list of all resources utilized. Four individual resources are expected. Internet resources, if used, should include the electronic address.</b> <b>** Any essay with information copied directly from sources without using quotes (plagiarized) will be disqualified. **</b>
<b>JUDGING AND AWARDS:</b>	<p><b>Judging will be based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of material, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, and that it is the student’s own work. Pictures, maps, drawings, graphics, and other such additions <i>will not</i> be considered in judging and should not be included.</b> Judging at the chapter level is by three judges, including at least two non-DAR judges. Judging at other levels is by three judges, all of whom are non-DAR members.</p> <p><b>CHAPTER:</b> One essay at each grade level is selected as the chapter winner and forwarded to the state American History chair for state competition or to district/region first. American History essay contest chapter winner certificates and bronze medals may be presented by the chapter if desired. In addition, chapters may present certificates of participation to every student who participates in the essay contest. These supplies are available from the DAR Store.</p> <p><b>STATE:</b> One essay at each grade level is selected as the state winner and forwarded to the appropriate national division vice chair of American History for division competition. The state winner receives a silver medal and state winner certificate.</p> <p><b>DIVISION:</b> One essay in each grade is selected as the division winner and forwarded for national competition to the national vice chair. Division winners are presented a division winner certificate.</p> <p><b>NATIONAL:</b> First, second, and third place winners are selected at the national level. A certificate, gold pin, and monetary award are presented to the national first place winner at Continental Congress. Winning essays (or videos) <i>may appear in official DAR communications. The national second and third place winners receive a certificate and a monetary award.</i></p> <p><b>Note: All essays must be submitted to a local chapter electronically by a teacher, school or individual student. Essays sent directly to the national chair or vice chair of the essay contest will not be considered.</b></p>
<b>DEADLINE:</b>	Chapter chairs should determine date for teachers, schools or individual students to forward essays to them to the chapter chair to allow for judging to be completed prior to state deadline. <i>States with district level judging should set appropriate intermediate deadlines.</i> <b>Date assigned: September 15, 2025</b>

**NAME, EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER OF CHAPTER CONTACT PERSON** Genie Hamilton (Chairperson)  
AmerHistEssayDAR@gmail.com, 916-607-3450 (text)

**NAME OF SPONSORING DAR CHAPTER** Charlotte Parkhurst Chapter - Folsom & El Dorado Hills

If additional information about the contest is needed, please contact the Office of the Historian General, NSDAR, at  
1776 D Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006–5303 Phone: (202) 879–3256



**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution**  
**American History Essay Contest**  
**(Grades 5-8)**  
**Judge's Scoring Sheet**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Total Score: 0

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Town/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade level: \_\_\_\_\_

	1	2	3	4	Score
<b>Essay Submission:</b> Consider: Title Page is complete and essay contains sources. Does not exceed word count: 300-600 (5th), 600-1000 (6th-8th)	Title Page is not complete; essay exceeds word count and/or lacks resources.	Title Page is complete but essay exceeds word count and/or has two or fewer sources.	Title Page is complete; essay has required word count; essay has three or fewer resources.	Title Page is complete; essay is presented according to directions with four or more resources	_____/4
<b>Historical Accuracy:</b> Consider: Essay meets standards of historical accuracy. 2X Points	Essay does not contain correct historical information (1-2pts)	Essay contains generally relevant and correct historical information (3-4pts)	Essay contains relevant and correct historical information (5-6pts)	Essay contains extensive correct historical information (7-8pts)	_____/8
<b>Adherence to Topic:</b> Consider: Writer demonstrates a clear understanding of question and responds with details. 2X Points	Little or no facts, concrete details, or examples included (1-2pts)	Attempts to develop subject with facts and examples, but lacks concrete details (3-4pts)	Develops subject with facts, concrete details, quotations and examples (5-6pts)	Thoroughly develops subject with relevant facts, concrete details, quotations and examples (7-8pts)	_____/8
<b>Organization of Essay:</b> Consider: Organization of essay	No organization: lacks beg/mid/end	Some organization: attempt at a beg/mid/end	Organized: beg/mid/end	Strong organization beg/mid/end	_____/4
<b>Interest:</b> Consider: Originality, word choice, voice, holds the reader's interest. 2X Points	Limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest (1-2 pts)	Words communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety (3-4 pts)	Vivid words and phrases draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally words are used inaccurately (5-6 pts)	Vivid words and phrases that draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of the words seem accurate and natural (7-8 pts)	_____/8
<b>Mechanics:</b> Spelling and Grammar	More than four (4) errors in spelling and/or grammar	Three (3) misspellings and/or grammatical errors	Two (2) or fewer misspellings and/or grammatical errors	No misspelling or grammatical errors	_____/4
<b>Resources:</b> Consider: Author, Title, Primary or Secondary, and/or Website address	Zero to one source listed (0-1pt)	Two sources	Three sources, including one primary source	Four or more sources, including both primary and secondary sources	_____/4

Comments:

Judge's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\* Note: The highest score an applicant can attain is 40.