



2022

Civics Essay and Video Contest

for high school students

Sponsored by



Federal Judges Association

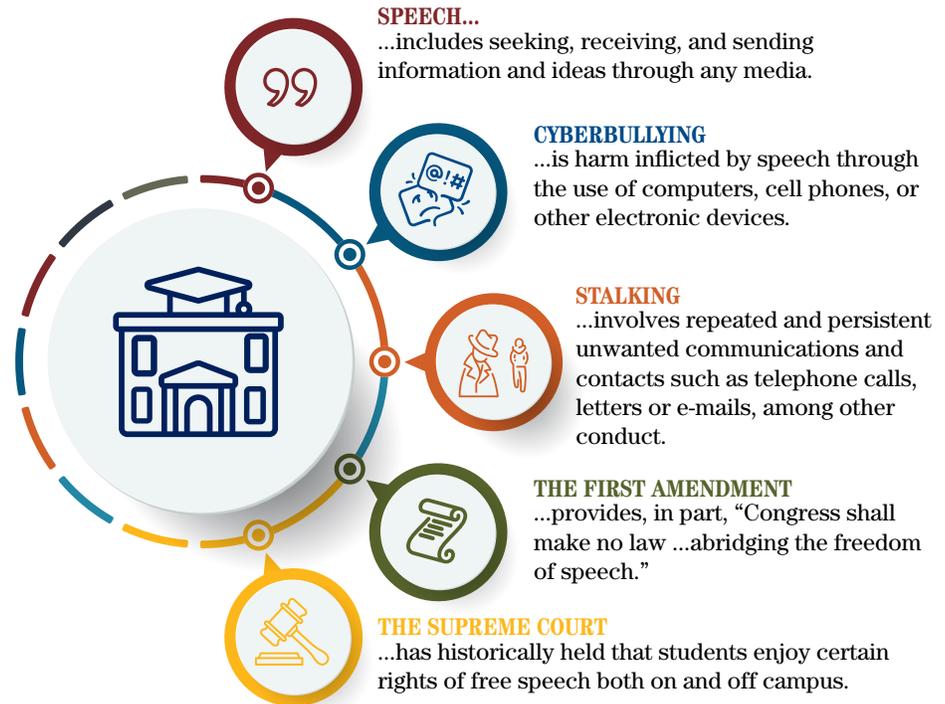


Federal Bar Association

HISTORICAL MILESTONES

1791	First Amendment ratified
1973	First handheld mobile phone demonstrated by John F. Mitchell.
1977	Home computers marketed
1981	First portable computer developed
1992	First text message sent from computer to cell phone reading "Merry Christmas"
1997	First social media site, SixDegrees, allows users to upload profiles and contacts
2003	Myspace founded and ushers in modern era of social media
2006	Passing of Megan Meier; later led to first cyberbullying criminal indictment
2007	Ordinance passed in Dardenne Prairie, Missouri, prohibiting harassment utilizing electronic medium (Municipal Code §201.030)
2008	H.B. 6123 introduced to amend Chapter 41, Title 18, U.S. Code with respect to cyberbullying
2010	Instagram launches as a photo-sharing platform

What Types of Student Speech Should a School Control?



The Federal Judges Association and the Federal Bar Association invite students to consider the question:

In light of the First Amendment, what type of social media posts should schools be allowed to punish as cyberbullying? Your essay submission or video submission should:

1. State your proposed rule
2. Present your best arguments in support of the rule
3. Discuss whether it matters where the speech is sent or received
4. Cite relevant sources, statutes, cases and/or historical events that support your arguments

Relevant Court Cases

Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L. (2021): Student who failed to make the varsity cheerleading squad posted images on Snapchat expressing her frustration with the school. The student was off campus when she posted the images, but the school punished her anyway.

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent (1969): To protest the Vietnam War, Students wore black armbands at school. The principal suspended them. Tinker is the central case establishing that students have certain First Amendment rights at school.

Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser (1986): Disciplining a student for Use of obscene language at school event.

Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier (1988): School district control of school newspaper.

West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette: Students reciting political pledges, such as the Pledge of Allegiance.

SEE page 2 or CLICK on the link below for complete entry rules and essay and video submission requirements!

[**Click Here**](#)

for more sources and to access important guidance for your essay!

*<https://www.fedbar.org/about-us/outreach/civics-essay-contest>

2022 FJA-FBA Civics Essay & Video Contest Rules

Who May Enter

The contest is open to high school students (grades 9-12) enrolled in public, private, parochial and charter schools and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status in the United States and its Territories. *Note: Children of federal judges, chambers staff, and employees of clerk's offices may not participate.*

Essay Rules

The maximum essay length is 1,000 words. While not required, proper use of endnote citations and bibliographies will be credited during judging but are not included in the word count. Essays must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document (preferred) or PDF file and follow these formatting guidelines:

- Use 12 pt. Cambria or Times New Roman font, double-spaced text, with one-inch margins
- DO NOT include a title page, page headers or footers, or page numbers
- Include your name on the first page only
- Place all in-text, numbered citations at the end of your essay as endnotes, followed by a bibliography (if included)
- Name your file as follows: Firstname Lastname.ext (example: John Smith.doc; John Smith.pdf)

Essays must be submitted with a completed entry form, available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Essay22. The online entry form provides instructions for uploading documents. Entries accepted through 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time March 1, 2022. Winners will be notified no later than April 1, 2022.

Essays will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Understanding constitutional principles – 40 points
 - Clarity and effectiveness in expressing the theme – 30 points
 - Grammar, spelling and composition – 25 points
 - Use of footnotes, bibliographies – 5 points
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Video Rules

Videos should be from 3 to 5 minutes long (not including end credits) and submitted as MOV, MP4, AVI or WMV files. High-definition or Full HD resolution preferred. When entering the contest, you will be provided with instructions for uploading your video file.

Videos will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrates an understanding of theme and constitutional principles – 30 points
 - Exhibits originality and creativity – 25 points
 - Clearly and effectively engages the viewer on emotional/subjective level – 25 points
 - Displays good production values (audio/video quality, editing, etc.) – 10 points
 - Respects copyright rules, properly credits content sources – 10 points
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Prizes

Scholarship prizes will be awarded for the following in *each* division:

First place, \$1,500 *Second place*, \$1,000 *Third place*, \$500 *Honorable Mention* (2), \$250

Publication Release

As a condition of entry acceptance, all publishing rights are retained by the Federal Bar Association and the association reserves the right to copyright material in its name and to reprint it in any FBA publication/media as it sees fit.

Copyright

Adherence to all U.S. copyright laws and fair use practices is required. Visit www.fedbar.org/about-us/outreach/civics-essay-contest/ for more information and resources.

Disqualification

Reasons for disqualification include (but are not limited to): incomplete or improperly formatted entries, off-topic essays, providing false information, committing plagiarism, not meeting the submission deadline, and not providing a release form if requested.

Questions? Visit www.fedbar.org/about-us/outreach/civics-essay-contest/contest-faqs/ or email civics@fedbar.org

For more information and important resources, visit www.fedbar.org/2022-essay-prompt/