

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION (FRA) 100th ANNIVERSARY 2025-2026

AMERICANISM/PATRIOTISM ESSAY CONTEST

2025-2026 Theme is:
"America at 250 years: What Does it mean to Me?"

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) is an organization of 25,000+ Active Duty, Retired, Reserve United States Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The purpose of this annual essay contest is to promote Americanism and Patriotism among the youth of our nation. Help us celebrate our 100th Anniversary of the Fleet Reserve Association founded in 1924 by encouraging your students to enter our Americanism/Patriotism Essay Contest. Here are the rules of the contest:

- All students of Public, Private, Parochial or Home Schools in grades 7 through 12 are invited to enter the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) Americanism Essay Contest.
- Essays shall be legibly written or typed on one page and one side of paper. The essay shall be on the theme designated and shall not exceed 350 words in length. The essay theme title must appear on the essay as written in the title line of the essay. Entries that do not meet these requirements will not be judged. Only one entry per person.
- Entrants must sign the Cover sheet stating that no "Artificial Intelligence (AI) was used in writing the essay. Parent/Guardian's must sign the cover sheet to allow entry and use of the entrant's picture.
- Complete the Americanism Essay Cover Sheet found attached to this sheet and staple it to the front of your completed essay. Do not put your name on the essay.
- Mail your cover sheet and attached essay to the address below before the deadline of December 1, 2025.
- Essays will be judged by members of FRA Branch and Unit 269 in Goose Creek, SC for compliance with rules, best thought process, neatness, originality, sincerity, and adherence to the Essay Theme of "America at 250 Years: What Does it Mean to Me"
- FRA Branch 269 will present local area awards for the top 3 entries from each grade level. First Place Essays will be entered into the Southeast Regional competition. They will be graded by FRA Members from Branches in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, and South Carolina. First Place Regional Essays will be entered into the National competition.
- The Grand National winner will receive **\$1,500.00** with additional prizes for the top three essays in each grade category. Each national winner will receive an attractive plaque citing his/her achievement.



	First Place	Second Place	Third Place	Grand Prize ***
Local Awards	\$200.00 gift card	\$100.00 gift card	\$75.00 gift card	\$500.00 gift card
Regional Awards	\$150.00 gift card	\$125.00 gift card	\$100.00 gift card	
National Awards	\$1,000.00 cash	\$750.00 cash	\$500.00 cash	\$1,500.00 cash

***Grand Prize winners are picked from the first-place winners of all grades for the local and national winners.

MAIL ALL ENTIRES TO: FRA AMERICANISM CONTEST, FRA Branch 269, 99 Wisteria Road, Goose Creek, SC 29445.

All entries must be postmarked on or before December 1, 2025. Applications forms are available for download from our branch website at www.fra269gc.org Home Page and also our national web site at www.fra.org under tab Events and Program/Americanism Essay Contest. Point of Contact for local awards is Laurie Bailey at (843) 813-3430 or lauriebailey21@gmail.com. Leave a message referencing FRA Essay Contest and a call back will be within one day.



FRA AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST RULES

- All entrants shall be students in grades seven through twelve (or equivalent).
- Entrants must be sponsored by a branch of the Fleet Reserve Association or a unit of the Ladies Auxiliary, or by an FRA Member-at-Large.
- The essay shall be on the theme designated and shall not exceed 350 words. The essay theme title must appear on the essay as written.
- **The essay shall be legibly written or typed on one page and one side of the paper.**
- The entrant name must not appear on the actual essay, but on a separate sheet as listed below.
- Each entry must be accompanied by a separate sheet [Cover Sheet] stating: the entrant's name; address; zip code; telephone number; school grade (or equivalent); name of school or the words "home schooled;" number of words in essay; and the sponsoring branch/unit or sponsor's name.
- The entrant must sign the Cover Sheet stating that no 'Artificial Intelligence' [AI] was used in writing the essay.
- A student may submit only one entry each year.
- Entries submitted to branches shall be submitted to the Branch Americanism-Patriotism Committee. If mailed entry must be postmarked not later than December 1, for judging at the branch level. If emailed, entry must be sent by December 1 to the Sponsoring Branch.
- Entries sponsored by membership at large members shall be submitted to the national chairman and forwarded to an appropriate branch for judging in their respective grade group. If mailed, all entries shall be postmarked not later than December 1st. If emailed to the national chairman, it must be sent by December 1st.
- **The Internal Revenue Service requires that any participant who receives \$600 or more will be issued a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. Winners must provide their social security numbers to the FRA upon request. W-9 required for national level winners.**





FRA AMERICANISM ESSAY COVER SHEET

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent Telephone Number: _____

Parent E-Mail Address: _____

Name of School: _____ Grade: _____

Number of Words in Essay: _____

AP Chair Name/Branch/Unit: _____

Phone Number _____ Email: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Entrants Signature Stating no Artificial Intelligence [AI] used in writing the essay.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Permission: I understand that my student is participating in FRA's Americanism Essay Contest and authorize FRA to publish photos of him/her if he/she should receive recognition for this entry. W-9 required for national level winners

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Note: Please type or write legibly.

PLEASE USE THIS FORM ONLY – NO OTHER ACCEPTED

