



MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society Mondale-Quie Essay Contest

The Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society, with the support of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates and the Civil Litigation Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, is sponsoring an essay contest that is open to Minnesota high school juniors and seniors. Students have an opportunity to receive up to \$1,000 in prize money as they examine the role of the judiciary in our society.

Mondale-Quie Essay Contest Issue for 2023-24:

The First Amendment prohibits the government from making laws “abridging the freedom of speech.” Across the United States we see school curriculum laws and books removed from schools and libraries.

Question to be answered: Comparing Minnesota’s local control of school curriculum (decided by school boards) and other nationwide trends, how should the government be involved in deciding what to include in school curriculum and what books should be made available to schools and the public? What role, if any, should the First Amendment to the United States Constitution play in these decisions?

What is the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society?

The Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society (“MSCHS”) was founded by lawyers, educators, judges, and other legal professionals who have a deep and abiding interest in the history of this State and the profound role that Minnesota's courts have played in that history. Our mission is to collect, preserve, and promote Minnesota's judicial history and to serve the interests of the bench and bar, the academic community, and the general public through educational programs, publications, and support of scholarly research.



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Important Dates:

Online Contest Registration Begins:	October 16, 2023
Online Essay Submission Deadline:	January 16, 2024
Announcement of Winners:	By March 31, 2023
Awards Luncheon:	May 2024

Winners will be announced via email and online at <https://mncourthistory.wildapricot.org/Essay-Contest>.

Awards will be distributed before the close of the school year at an awards ceremony or via U.S. mail if winners are unable to attend the awards ceremony or the awards ceremony cannot happen in person.

Contest Objective

High school juniors and seniors must prepare to engage in everyday civil society where significant issues involving historical and constitutional issues arise; therefore, the Mondale-Quie Essay Contest issue has been developed to:

- Provide high school students with an understanding of the judiciary, including its role in society;
- Engage high school teachers and students in the exploration of the role of the judiciary in their lives; and
- Challenge high school students to strengthen their analytic and writing skills.

Eligibility

Minnesota high school students in grades 11 and 12 who attend a public or private school (including charter and alternative-learning programs) or who are home-schooled in Minnesota are eligible to apply.



ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

ANY ENTRY THAT DOES NOT CONFORM TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.

Format

- Type essay in English — free from spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors.
- Use Arial or Times New Roman font, 12-point
- Double-space essay with 1” margins – top, bottom, right, and left.
- Place essay title on first page, top center
- Include your **first and last name** and page number on all pages, top right.

Length

The essay must be between 750 and 1,250 words. State the number of words used at the end of your essay text, prior to the bibliography or works-cited page.

Word count excludes the bibliography or works-cited page, works cited in footnotes or endnotes, if such are used.

To obtain essay word count without the number of words used in the bibliography or works cited, highlight essay text only, go to computer word-count tool (under tools on computer tool bar). The word-count tool will read only the highlighted words.

Bibliography – Works Cited

A minimum of four books, academic journals, news magazines, newspapers, court cases, summaries of court cases, government documents or publications are required for research on this year's assigned topic. With the exception of the Lesson Plans for Teachers, all of the resource suggestions starting on page 5 are acceptable. You are not required to use, nor are you limited to, the resource suggestions starting on page 5.

A bibliography or works-cited page is required to identify research sources and should follow the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines. For more information, refer to the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition at



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<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01>. (Click on links in left column for more in-depth instruction.)

Research should include sources that examine more than one side of the issue. General encyclopedias (e.g., Wikipedia, Britannica, Americana, and World Book) are unacceptable resources.

Online databases that index reference books, journals, magazines and newspapers are valid sources and must be cited according to the Modern Language Association's guidelines. See again: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01>.

The bibliography or works-cited page should be on a separate page at the conclusion of the essay.



RESOURCE SUGGESTIONS

Below are resources that you may, but are not required to, consider. You are not limited to these resources.

Constitutions

First Amendment to the [United States Constitution](#):

[The government] shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

U.S. Const, amend I.

Excerpt of **Article I, Section 3** of the [Minnesota Constitution](#)

The liberty of the press shall forever remain inviolate, and all persons may freely speak, write and publish their sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of such right.

Minn. Const., art. I, sec. 3.

Statutes

Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.20:

Each school district shall have a procedure for a parent, guardian, or an adult student, 18 years of age or older, to review the content of the instructional materials to be provided to a minor child or to an adult student and, if the parent, guardian, or adult student objects to the content, to make reasonable arrangements with school personnel for alternative instruction. Alternative instruction may be provided by the parent, guardian, or adult student if the alternative instruction, if any, offered by the school board does not meet the concerns of the parent, guardian, or adult student. The school board is not required to pay for the costs of alternative instruction provided by a parent, guardian, or adult student. School personnel may not impose an academic or other



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penalty upon a student merely for arranging alternative instruction under this section. School personnel may evaluate and assess the quality of the student's work.

Minn. Stat. § 120B.20.

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.02, subdivision 1:

The [School Board] must have the general charge of the business of the district, the school houses, and of the interests of the schools thereof. The board's authority to govern, manage, and control the district; to carry out its duties and responsibilities; and to conduct the business of the district includes implied powers in addition to any specific powers granted by the legislature.

Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, subd. 1.

Cases

[*Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v Pico by Pico*](#) (link from Britannica)

[*Tinker v Des Moines Independent Community School District*](#) (link from United States Courts)

[*United States v American Library Assn., Inc.*](#) (link from Britannica)

Websites

[American Library Association](#)

Arizona State University Library Guide "[Children & Young Adult Literature: Banned Books.](#)"

[Banned Books – Top 3 Pros and Cons](#), Britannica.



Articles

[“Censorship or Protection? A Debate on Book Banning in Schools”](#) by Suzanne Gallagher, Allan and Sheri Rivlin and Asra Nomani. Divided We Fall. May 3, 2023.

[“Do Minors Have First Amendment Rights in Schools?”](#) by Theresa Chmara. Knowledge Quest, Volume 44, No. 1. September/October 2015. Pages 8-13. (can download the full text.)

[“Requests to ban books hit a 21-year high. See which titles were the most challenged”](#)
By Parker Leipzig. CNN. Sunday, August 27, 2023.

[“Freedom to Teach? The Intersection of the First Amendment and American Public School Curricula.”](#) By Shane Stout. UNC School of Law: First Amendment Law Review Vol. 21. Fall 2022.

[“Top 13 Most Challenged Books of 2022”](#) American Library Association.

[“Is there really widespread book banning?”](#) by Catrin Wigfall. Center for the American Experiment. July 26, 2023.

[“Book bans” Rhetoric v. reality”](#) by Catrin Wigfall. Center for the American Experiment. September 6, 2023.

[“Are book bans in schools even real? Rhetoric doesn’t match reality”](#) by Ingrid Jacques. USA Today. June 9, 2023.

Videos

[Board of Education v. Pico](#) March 20, 2020

[Civics 101 “Tinker v Des Moines”](#) January 4, 2018.

Podcasts

[Make No Law: The First Amendment Podcast from Legal Talk Network. “The Schoolhouse Gates”.](#) January 31, 2018.



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Reports

[“The Book Ban Mirage”](#) by Jay P. Greene, Max Eden, Madison Marino. Efinstitute.org. July 20, 2023.

[“Banned in the USA: The Mounting Pressure to Censor”](#) by Kasey Meehan, Jonathan Friedman, Sabrina Baeta, and Tasslyn Magusson. Pen America. September 21, 2023.



Judging Criteria — *Total points possible – 100 points*

Submission will be judged using the following criteria:

- **Position Analysis** (30 points)
 - **Your essay must state your position, which must be:**
 - **Clearly stated**
 - **Well-reasoned**
 - **Well-focused**
- **Support for position** (20 points)
- **Your position should be supported by source materials provided above, other materials, or both.**
- **Impact of Your Position** (20 points)
 - **Your essay must state the impact your position has, including, where appropriate, on students. You must provide examples of the impact of your position.**
- **Mechanics** (10 points)
 - **Your essay must contain few or no grammar, spelling, punctuation or capitalization errors, and include appropriate and varied word choice.**
- **Organization and form** (20 points)
 - **Your essay should be well organized and include:**
 - **A clear introduction**
 - **A discussion portion with supporting analysis**
 - **A clear conclusion**
 - **Your essay must follow the requirements for format and length. It must also include a bibliography.**



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Timeline

Online Registration Begins: October 16, 2023

Registration Process

- Visit www.mncourthistory.org and click on the “Register Here” link
- Complete all required fields. **Please include your first and last name**
- Click “Send”

Essay Submission Deadline: **January 16, 2024**

Submission Process

- Email your essay and bibliography/works cited page to director.mschs@gmail.com

Prizes

The MSCHS will award scholarships to the top three essays: First Place: \$1,000; Second Place: \$750; Third Place \$500. Scholarship recipients must complete and sign a release form and, if the student is under the age of 18, that form must be co-signed by the student’s parent/guardian. (Where the co-signature is required, the parent/guardian must also sign the parent/guardian release form at the bottom of the page.) Winners will be contacted and mailed the release form, which must be completed and returned within 10 working days. (A sample of the release form appears at the end of this packet.)

There is no entry fee for participating.



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Essay Contest Checklist

Deadlines:

- Complete online registration at <https://mncourthistory.wildapricot.org/Essay-Contest> (and include both your first **and last name**)
- Submit essay online NO LATER than January 16, 2024**

Essay Format:

- Essay is written in English and free from spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors
- Essay is typed in Arial or Times New Roman font, 12-point, and is double-spaced
- Pages are formatted with 1" margins on all sides
- Essay has title on first page at the top and centered
- Essay contains writer's first and last name and a page number on each page in the top right corner
- Essay is 750 to 1,250 words and word count is noted at the end of the work before the bibliography (refer to the essay requirements about what words to count and how to obtain a word count)

Bibliography:

- Essay contains a bibliography or works-cited page on a separate page at the end
- A MINIMUM of 4 works have been cited (see essay requirements for acceptable works)



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Lesson Plans for Teachers (Not for Use in Essay Contest)

[“Lesson Plan Booster: Censorship and Banned Books Week”](#) from Education World.

[“Banned Books, Censored Topics: Teaching About the Battle Over What Students Should Learn.”](#) From The New York Times, The Learning Network.

[“Lesson Plan: The history of book banning in America.”](#) Thaisi DaSilva and Veronica DeVore. PBS NewsHour. September 28, 2011.



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Release Form:

*Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society (MSCHS) Mondale-Quie
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The release form must be fully completed and submitted by winners in order to receive an award. Each winner will be notified and mailed the release, which must be returned to the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society Education Committee within 10 working days.

Student Release Form

Name: (please print first and last name) _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ County: ____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Note: School information is not required for home-schooled students.

School: _____

I state as follows:

1. I have read and accept the terms of the contest guidelines for the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society (MSCHS) Mondale-Quie Essay Contest (hereinafter the "Competition").
2. I warrant and represent that I personally created the essay that I submitted to the Competition. I further warrant and represent that the essay I submitted has not been published before its submission to this Competition and that any reference material I have used has been properly cited and not plagiarized.
3. I am a high school student in the 11th or 12th grade in Minnesota.
4. I am 18 years old or older, or, if I am younger than 18 years old, I have obtained the countersignature of my parent or legal guardian at the bottom of my release form.
5. I hereby release, discharge and hold harmless the MSCHS and its successors, assigns, officers, employees, and agents associated with the Competition from and against any and all liability, loss, damage, expense, claims, settlements, or judgments of any kind whatsoever, including attorneys' fees, whether in contract or in tort, arising directly or indirectly as a result of my participation in the Competition, and my acceptance and use of a prize awarded to me.



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6. I consent to the use of my name, relevant biographical data and related pictures, portraits, photographs, voice or likeness, in any form of the essay entered by me in the Competition for editorial, advertising, promotional, and trade purposes in connection with the promotion by the MSCHS of this Competition and succeeding programs sponsored by the MSCHS. I release the MSCHS from all liabilities arising out of distortion, optical illusions, or faulty mechanical reproductions of my likeness. I acknowledge that I have no right to approve the advertising or promotional materials that include my likeness or the essay submitted by me to the Competition.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone number: _____

Parent's or legal guardian's countersignature (if student is under 18): _____

Please print name here: _____

Parent or Guardian Release Form

(To be completed by parent or guardian of a student under age 18.)

I, _____, hereby represent and warrant that I am the parent or legal guardian of the identified student and that I accept the same legal obligations in connection with this Competition, including but not limited to, the use of the minor's name, likeness and essay, and consent to the minor named herein accepting and receiving a prize. I also hereby release, discharge and hold harmless the MSCHS, successors, assigns, officers, employees and agents associated with the Competition from and against any and all liability, loss, damage, expense, claims, settlements or judgments of any kind whatsoever, including attorney's fees, whether in contract or in tort, which I or my heirs, executors or administrators may have arising directly or indirectly as a result of the minor's participation in the Competition and acceptance and receipt of a prize.

Name: (please print first and last name) _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone number: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____