



2017 LAW DAY THEME

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The central graphic features a stylized American flag motif. On the left, there is a blue field with white stars. On the right, there are red and white stripes. The text 'THE 14TH AMENDMENT' is in blue, 'TRANSFORMING' is in red, and 'AMERICAN DEMOCRACY' is in red. The text is centered and overlaid on the flag graphic. There is also some faint, illegible text in the background of the graphic.

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SOUTH CAROLINA BAR

SENIOR LAWYERS DIVISION

STATEWIDE LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST

2017 AWARDS PACKET

**Open to all 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Grade Public School,
Private School, and Homeschooled Students**

THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S LAW DAY 2017 THEME
14th Amendment:
Transforming American Democracy

The 2017 theme provides the opportunity to explore the many ways that the Fourteenth Amendment has reshaped American law and society. Through its Citizenship, Due Process and Equal Protection clauses, this transformative amendment advanced the rights of all Americans. It also played a pivotal role in extending the reach of the Bill of Rights to the states. Ratified during Reconstruction a century and a half ago, the Fourteenth Amendment serves as the cornerstone of landmark civil rights legislation, the foundation for numerous federal court decisions protecting fundamental rights, and a source of inspiration for all those who advocate for equal justice under law.

WHAT IS LAW DAY?

Established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958, Law Day celebrates the American heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the law. In 1961, Congress issued a joint resolution designating May 1 as the official date for celebrating Law Day. Every year, Law Day provides legal professionals and others with opportunities to help students and the public understand how the law protects our freedoms.

2017 LAW DAY ESSAY TOPIC INTRODUCTION

When announcing the 2017 Law Day Theme, Linda Klein, American Bar Association President, stated the following:

Ratified in 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment provides that no state shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law or deny any person within its jurisdiction equal protection of the law. When the Fourteenth Amendment took effect following the civil war, it served the immediate purpose of protecting the citizenship rights of free men while for the first time constitutionally defining United States citizenship. In the years since its ratification, the Fourteenth Amendment has transformed American law and society in several significant ways. The Amendment allowed the key guarantees of the Bill of Rights to become enforceable against the states and not just against the federal government. Its due process clause became the basis for court recognition of certain fundamental rights not specifically mentioned in the constitution, including the right to privacy and its equal protection clause to protect the rights of all Americans for equal treatment under the law. The Supreme Court's landmark decision of *Brown vs. Board of Education* in 1954 ending the legal segregation of schools is but one example. Today, the Fourteenth Amendment stands among the most often cited and most litigated of any constitutional provision. Rarely does a Supreme Court term go by without a landmark ruling that has its roots in the Fourteenth Amendment including recent decisions on affirmative action and voting rights. As we mark Law Day on this, the Amendment's one hundred and fifty year anniversary, let us reflect upon the pivotal role it played in protecting and advancing the rights of all Americans.

2017 LAW DAY ESSAY TOPIC

Each student participant must write an essay of 1,000 words or less on this topic:

Why is the Fourteenth Amendment important to America's aspirational ideal that all citizens are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?

The following discussion points have been provided as a suggested approach; however, they are not mandatory, and creativity is encouraged:

- ❖ **Explain a right that has been advanced by the Fourteenth Amendment.**
- ❖ **Explain a right that has been protected by the Fourteenth Amendment.**
- ❖ **Explain why congress, in 1866, felt it necessary that the Fourteenth Amendment be added to the constitution.**
- ❖ **Explain why the Fourteenth Amendment serves to promote justice for all citizens.**

ESSAY DIRECTIONS

Each essay writer is required to adhere to the following:

- 1) Submit a typewritten essay in a 12-point font and include all attached documents:
 - The student's name, home address, home phone number, and grade level
 - Essay title.
 - School name, address, phone number, and educator's name (if applicable)
 - Name of local newspaper(s)
 - Documentation of all research on the enclosed Works Cited page or an attached sheet (if applicable).
- 2) Forward all to an English Language Arts (ELA) or Social Studies (SS) teacher to submit the given essays and application forms.
- 3) **DO NOT PUT THE STUDENT'S NAME ON THE ESSAY ITSELF**

SELECTION CRITERIA

Each English Language Arts and/or Social Studies teacher may submit two (2) essays per grade level from his or her respective school for consideration for the pre-selection judging. However, it is appropriate that more than (2) essays can be submitted if it is the teacher's opinion that additional essays are worthy of consideration. The essays will be read and assessed by Judge Hayes and members of the South Carolina Circuit Court Judges Association. The overall winner, his family, and teacher will be invited to the Annual State Bar Association Convention where the student will be recognized.

All public school, private school and home-schooled participants' essays must be submitted to Judge Mark Hayes by **noon on Friday, June 9, 2017**. All essays along with the appropriate cover sheets are to be submitted to the following address:

Judge J. Mark Hayes, II
Spartanburg County Courthouse
180 Magnolia Street
Spartanburg, SC 29306
Office: (864) 562-4144 Fax: (864) 562-4142

AWARDS

9 th Grade	\$ 500
10 th Grade	\$ 500
11 th Grade	\$ 500
12 th Grade	\$ 500
Overall Winner	\$1,000

Cash awards, medals and certificates will be presented to the recipients. Winning essays may be submitted to the local newspaper for publication and also to other organizations for possible publication and release to the general public.

ESSAYS FROM PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Students from participating schools will submit essays to a school official (teacher, administrator, etc.) for pre-selection.

School submissions should include:

- 1) Essays and corresponding entry forms, including any source citations and parental release forms (if applicable);
- 2) A list of all other students who prepared essays for this contest. (Judge Hayes would like to recognize the efforts of all participants.)

ESSAYS FROM STUDENTS WHOSE SCHOOLS ARE NOT PARTICIPATING OR WHO ARE HOME-SCHOOLED

Students whose schools are not participating or who are not affiliated with a school may send entries directly to Judge Hayes for consideration.

- 1) Essays and corresponding entry forms, including any source citations and parental release forms (if applicable);
- 2) A student who is affiliated with a non-participating school or class must provide the school's name, address, telephone number, and indicate on the form that the school or class is not participating.

Essay Title: _____ Entry #: _____

2017 Law Day Essay Contest Judging Criteria

ESSAY THEME:

14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy

Assign a point value (1 – 10) to each of the following questions. One point indicates the lowest mark and 10, the highest.

Structure/Content

- _____ Does the essay contain an introduction, a descriptive body and a conclusion?
- _____ Is the data correct and in a clear and logical and/or sequential order?
- _____ Does the essay exhibit good language skills: proper spelling, syntax and grammar?
- _____ Are the references to sources (Constitution, Bill of Rights, cases, etc.) correct?

Creativity/Originality

- _____ Does the essay have some sense of originality and creativity?
- _____ Are the ideas good and well-developed?
- _____ Does the essay creatively develop the theme and does not deviate?
- _____ Does the essay contain the writer's personal views and comments?

General Appearance

- 10 Is the format neat/typed or written legibly?
- 10 Is the cover sheet attached and correct?

_____ **Total Points (100 points maximum)**

COVER SHEET

2017 Law Day Essay Contest
DEADLINE: JUNE 9th, 2017 AT 12:00 NOON

A copy of this sheet must accompany each essay submitted in the 2017 Law Day Essay Contest. All of the information on this sheet must be completed and must not appear on the essay.

Entry Number: _____ (will be assigned by Law Day Essay Contest Committee)

Please PRINT all information in blue ink.

Grade Category: Grade 9 _____ Grade 10 _____ Grade 11 _____ Grade 12 _____

ESSAY TITLE: _____

Student's Name: _____

Student's Address:

(Street/PO Box) City State Zip

Student's Phone Number (_____) _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

School: _____

School Address:

(Street/PO Box) City State Zip

Name of Teacher Submitting Essay: _____

Teacher's E-mail: _____

Name of Local Newspaper: _____

Number of Words: _____ (not to exceed 1,000)

Mail the completed cover sheet ATTACHED to your essay to:

Judge Mark Hayes
180 Magnolia Street
Spartanburg County Courthouse
Spartanburg, SC 29306
Office: (864) 562-4144 Fax: (864)562-4142

Essay Title: _____ Entry #: _____

Academic/Extracurricular Activities

ESSAY THEME:
14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy

Please list any of the student's honors, awards, or extracurricular activities that can be used when publishing the student's essay:

Please list the student's academic and vocational goals after graduation (i.e. colleges, military, law enforcement, doctor, lawyer, etc.):
