



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Sponsored by Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of
The United States of America

THEME:

*“Explain a Constitutional Right or Privilege
and How It Affects You and Your Family.”*

RULES:

1. At the time of the contest, eligible participants must be students enrolled in one of these four divisions: I—5th grade; II—6th grade; III—7th grade; or IV—8th grade.
2. Essay length is not to exceed 300 words.
3. Essay must be typed or legibly printed in ink. Also, essay must be submitted as written (or typed) by the entrant.
4. Essay must be submitted for judging to the Elks Lodge nearest to the address of the entrant.
5. Participant must be identified by name, grade, school attending, and sponsoring Elks Lodge on the essay.

AWARDS:

Plaques will be awarded by Grand Lodge for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place for national winning essays in Divisions I, II, III, and IV. Monetary awards will be disbursed for each grade level for 1st Place—\$1,000; 2nd Place—\$500; and 3rd Place—\$250. Winners will be announced at the Grand Lodge Session in Denver, CO, July 4-7, 2027.

ENTRY DATE:

Essay should be submitted to local Elks Lodge on or before December 15, 2026.

The Essay Contest Cover Sheet must be completed for each level of competition and remain attached to the Essay.

Sponsoring Elks Lodge: Westfield-West Springfield No. 1481
Address: 56 Franklin St., Westfield, MA 01085
Contact Person: Patricia O'Connor
Phone No. 413-563-7286
E-mail: oconnorp1749@comcast.net





2026-2027 AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST COVER SHEET

(MUST be attached to each Essay)



**“Explain a Constitutional Right or Privilege
and How It Affects You and Your Family.”**

Section 1 — to be filled out by student

(Circle or Highlight One Grade)

•Division I: 5th Grade

•Division II: 6th Grade

•Division III: 7th Grade

•Division IV: 8th Grade

School _____ Teacher's Name _____

School Address _____ City _____ State _____

Student's Name _____ Male ☐ Female ☐ Age _____ Grade _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone (____) _____

(used only to contact the winners)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

Send to Local Lodge no later than December 15, 2026.

Section 2 — to be filled out by Lodge Chairman

Chairman's Name Patricia O'Connor Phone Number (413) 563-7286

Sponsoring Lodge Name & Number Westfield-West Springfield Lodge 1481

Address 56 Franklin St. City Westfield State MA ZIP 01085

E-mail oconnorp1749@comcast.net

Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the District Americanism Chairman by January 31, 2027 or the date established by the State Chairman. (Top three only, do not separate as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)

Section 3 — to be filled out by District Chairman

Chairman's Name _____ District _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Chairman's Phone Number (____) _____ E-mail _____

Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the State Americanism Chairman by February 28, 2027 or the date established by the State Chairman. (Top three only, do not separate as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)

Section 4 — to be filled out by State Chairman

Chairman's Name _____ State _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Chairman's Phone Number (____) _____ E-mail _____

Select the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners for your State and send the 1st place winner from each division to the Contest Administrator, Victoria Watson, by March 31, 2027.