



Vermont Secretary of State
2013 Poster and Essay Contest
Registration Form

Entries must be submitted or postmarked by April 5, 2013

Contest Information

Participation in the Poster and Essay Contest is determined by the entrant's grade level as follows:

Grades K-2 Official Vermont Symbols Poster Contest (e.g. state flag, state seal, state bird).

Grades 3-5 Vermont History Poster Contest: Make sure the artwork relates to Vermont history.

Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12 Essay Contest: AMENDMENT OF THE VERMONT CONSTITUTION Chapter II § 72.

How to Amend the Constitution: At the biennial session of the General Assembly of this State which convenes in A.D. 1975, and at the biennial session convening every fourth year thereafter, the Senate by a vote of two-thirds of its members, may propose amendments to this Constitution, with the concurrence of a majority of the members of the House of Representatives with the amendment as proposed by the Senate. A proposed amendment so adopted by the Senate and concurred in by the House of Representatives shall be referred to the next biennial session of the General Assembly; and if at that last session a majority of the members of the Senate and a majority of the House of Representatives concur in the proposed amendment, it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to submit the proposal directly to the voters of the state. Any proposed amendment submitted to the voters of the state in accordance with this section which is approved by a majority of the voters voting thereon shall become part of the Constitution of this State.

Most Recent Constitutional Amendment: In the General Election of 2010, Vermont voters overwhelmingly approved a Constitutional Amendment to allow seventeen- year- olds who will turn eighteen on or before the day of the November General Election to participate in the Presidential Primary and the August Primary for the year that the voter will be eighteen by the General Election.

Essay questions for Grades 6-8:

- Was this latest constitutional amendment a good or bad idea? Why or Why not?
- How does this latest constitutional amendment affect the electoral process?

Essay questions for Grades 9-12:

- How many times have we made amendments to Vermont's Constitution since its inception?
- We've given you the latest example. Of the ones you have found, which do you think, including this latest one, is the most important or has the most impact on Vermonters?
- Should Vermont allow constitutional amendments? Why or Why not?

Format note! Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12 essay entries may be submitted in one of these formats: a traditional written essay, a PowerPoint presentation, or a YouTube video, and e-mailed to civics@sec.state.vt.us with all contact information.

All entries must either be submitted or postmarked by April 5, 2013

Contest Rules

- **Posters** may not exceed 15" x 24" in size. They should be sent in secure, sturdy packages that can be reused for returning after the contest is over. Tubes are not recommended. **Clearly label entries with the student's name, grade, teacher and school. Mail to Civics department, Office of the Secretary of State, 128 State St., Montpelier, VT 05633-1101**
- **Written essays** should be between 600 and 1200 words, double-spaced, 12 point font and submitted in a Word document attachment. **PowerPoint** presentations should be between 6 and 12 slides and compatible with PowerPoint 2003. **Send e-mail entries to civics@sec.state.vt.us and be sure to include name, grade, teacher, and school.**
- **YouTube videos** should be between 2-5 minutes in length. **Please e-mail the YouTube link to civics@sec.state.vt.us, and be sure to include name, grade, teacher, and school.**

All essays and posters will be judged on the following criteria:

- Originality
- Dedication to contest theme and knowledge of topic
- General aesthetic quality, including but not limited to design composition, materials used, production values, etc.

Return of posters cannot be guaranteed. If you would like an entry returned, be sure that the registration form and each submission is clearly marked with contact information.

Contest Awards

A \$100 prize will be awarded to the First Place winners in each of the 4 grade level groups to be used for purchasing materials or funding field trips related to civics education or the study of Vermont. In the event that a First Place Winner is a Home Schooled student, a \$100 donation will be awarded to the public library of the student's choice. **First Place winners will be notified by April 12th.**

First Place winners, their families, and their classes, as well as any Honorable Mention recipients and their families, will be invited to an awards ceremony on **Monday, May 13th, 2013**, at the State House in Montpelier. In addition, they will have the opportunity to tour the State House and visit the Vermont Historical Society Museum with the Supreme Court as an option for older students.

All entries must be submitted or postmarked by April 5, 2013, and sent to:

**Civics Department
2013 Poster and Essay Contest
Office of the Secretary of State
128 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-1101**

Contact Nancy Lynch with any questions at 802-828-2148, or civics@sec.state.vt.us

Entry Form:

Student/Class, Name/Grade: _____

** If registering more than one student, see note below*

School Name: _____

School Mailing Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

Write in the **number of entries** being submitted to the contest category. Use a separate entry sheet for each different category.

Grades K-2 Official Vermont Symbols Poster Contest - # of entries: _____

Grades 3-5 Vermont History Poster Contest - # of entries: _____

Grades 6-8 Essay, Power Point, or YouTube video - # of entries: _____

Grades 9-12 Essay, Power Point, or YouTube video - # of entries: _____

***Multiple Entries:** Poster or essay entries for an entire class may be submitted with one registration form. Include a list of **ALL** participating students on a separate sheet. Be sure that each individual entry is labeled on the backside with **ALL** of the information requested above.

For e-mail entries (written essay, Power Point, or YouTube link), send to civics@sec.state.vt.us with name, grade, teacher and school.

Entry forms and submissions must be submitted or postmarked by April 5, 2013 to:

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