



2022 Essay Contest for Jefferson County Students
The Divide between the Patriots and Loyalists during the Revolutionary War: Separation and Independence or remain British subjects?

Sponsored by the Keystone Federated Republican Women (KFRW)

Essay Contest Rules

Eligibility: All Jefferson County middle school and high school aged students currently enrolled in public or private schools or homeschooled.

Topic:

In correspondence dated March 19, 1812 between two preeminent Founding Fathers, John Adams and Dr. Benjamin Rush, John Adams said:

“1774 was the most important and the most difficult Year of all. We were about one third Tories, one third timid and one third true Blue”.

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Adams/99-02-02-5768>

President John Adams was referring to Loyalists who opposed separating from Great Britain (Tories), the timid (who did not take a position out of fear or indifference), and true blue (the Whigs or Patriots).

In this essay, you will be examining some of the reasons for the “great divide” and looking through the lens of history to understand both sides of the Tory and Patriot arguments.

Instructions:

The timeframe for this essay is end of April, 1775 (just after battles at Lexington and Concord).

1. **Scenario 1:** You have been a prosperous Boston businessman with a family engaged in the business of mostly cod fishing for over 30 years. You and your family consider yourselves Patriots and support the ongoing struggle against Britain, including the idea of declaring Independence.

2. **Scenario 2:** You have been a farmer in the farmlands outside of Philadelphia for 30 years. You have a large Quaker family and farm over 200 acres of wheat and other crops. You and your family are against separating from Great Britain and remain strong supporters of Great Britain’s rule over the 13 colonies.

For each scenario,

a. Write your thesis statement, which expresses the main idea of what you are writing about, which focuses on the merits of being a Patriot (Scenario 1) or a Loyalist (Scenario 2).



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- b. State the specific reasons for your position based on historical events and how the events and experiences have affected your business, family, and community.
- c. State why your position (to separate from Great Britain and create a new government or remain as colonies under British control) is the best course of action for the 13 colonies to take.

Requirements:

1. The essay is to be typed using 14-point font, and double spaced. The essay should be between 750-850 words. Do not include any photos or images.
2. The essay must have a bibliography listing references utilized, including a list of any internet resources. If internet resources are used, add the electronic address (URL) used to access the document.
3. A separate cover sheet (see form attached to these contest rules) must accompany the essay.
4. Do not include your name or the school's name on any of the pages of the essay.

Criteria for Judging: The essays will be judged on quality of research, accuracy, writing ability, and grammar.

Due Date: Your essay must be post marked no later than March 31, 2022.

Mail essay to: Keystone Federated Republican Women
P.O. Box 45
Monticello, FL 32345

KFRW will recognize and award cash prizes to the top essayists in both middle school and high school as follows:

- 1st Place: Award Certificate and \$ 250.00
2nd Place: Award Certificate and \$ 150.00
3rd Place: Award Certificate and \$ 50.00

An Award Ceremony, announcing the winners, will be Monday evening, April 25, 2022, at the KFRW monthly meeting.

If you need additional copies of the announcement or have process questions, please contact Gretchen Wallace (850-997-1968), Committee Chair, or Lynn Stafford (850-491-8755) President, or email info@KFRWFL.org. Contest also posted at www.KFRWFL.org.

Thank you for submitting your essay and good luck!



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Cover Sheet for KFRW 2022 Essay Contest

(Print all Information)

1. Name of Student: _____

2. Name of School: _____

Student Grade Level: _____ (if homeschooled, grade equivalency)

3. Date of Birth: _____

4. Home address: _____

Parent or Guardian Contact Information:

5. Email address: _____

6. Phone number: _____

I give the KFRW permission to publish my essay and my picture in the KFRW Newsletter, and local media publications.

I hereby certify that the essay submitted herewith is solely my work product and any quoted information used in the essay is accompanied by a footnote, which references the source of the quoted information.

Signature of Student

Date Submitted

Name of Parent or Guardian (Print)

Parent or Guardian Signature