



2023 Essay Contest for Jefferson County Students

Lesser Known Signers of the Declaration of Independence

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:

Although 56 men signed the Declaration of Independence as Delegates (representatives) of their Colonies to the Second Continental Congress, most Americans can only name a couple of these men, such as Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams.

In the last paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, the Signers agreed “*And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.*”

In this essay, you will be learning and writing about some of the lesser known, but very remarkable, men in history whose stories should be told and their lives honored for their bravery and sacrifices made at one of the most crucial times in our American history.

The timeframe for this essay is the Revolutionary War era (1775-1783), including the period when the Declaration of Independence was being debated and signed.

Instructions: Pick **one** of the following men who signed the Declaration of Independence as the subject of your essay:

- **Carter Braxton (Virginia)**
- **Charles Carroll of Carrollton (Maryland)**
- **William Ellery (Rhode Island)**
- **Elbridge Gerry (Massachusetts)**
- **John Hart (New Jersey)**
- **Francis Hopkinson (New Jersey)**
- **Francis Lewis (New York)**
- **Thomas Lynch, Jr. (South Carolina)**
- **Thomas McKean (Delaware)**
- **Robert Morris (Pennsylvania)**
- **Thomas Nelson, Jr. (Virginia)**
- **Caesar Rodney (Delaware)**

Part One of the Essay: Based on your research, write a biographical narrative of your selected person’s life with particular attention devoted to his participation in the events leading up to and after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Include also, such things as family details, influential friends, education, religious beliefs, major accomplishments, abolitionist views, and character traits shown through his actions.



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Part Two of the Essay: Pretend that you are a citizen of the Colony your selected person represented in the Second Continental Congress. Pretend further that this person has died and you are **writing a letter** to his surviving family members to express your sympathies and to recite his patriotic accomplishments during his life. Express your opinion about the worth of this person to our Country, present and future. **This part of the Essay is to be written as a letter.**

Requirements:

1. The essay is to be typed using 14-point font, and double spaced. The essay should be between 600-850 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 must accompany the essay (see form attached to this announcement).
4. **Do not include your name or the school's name on any pages of the essay.**

Criteria for Judging: Based upon a 100-point scale, essays will be judged on quality of research, accuracy, writing ability, and grammar. Points will be specifically awarded (as included in the 100-point scale) for **primary source document references** under the quality of research criteria.

Due Date: Your essay must be post marked no later than February 28, 2023.

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

KFRW will recognize all essayists with a participation certificate and award cash prizes to the top essayists in both middle school and high school as follows:

- 1st Place: Award Certificate and \$300.00
- 2nd Place: Award Certificate and \$200.00
- 3rd Place: Award Certificate and \$100.00

Winners will be announced at the KFRW monthly meeting on March 27, 2023, with an Award Ceremony, and readings of essays as time permits. Please plan to attend.

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

Thank you for submitting your essay and good luck!



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Cover Sheet for KFRW 2023 Essay Contest

(Print all Information)

Student Information:

1. Name of Student: _____
2. Name of School: _____
3. Student Grade Level: _____ (if homeschooled, grade equivalency)
4. Date of Birth: _____
5. Home address: _____

Parent or Guardian Contact Information:

1. Email address: _____
2. 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