



Voice of Democracy

Established in 1947, our **Voice of Democracy** audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 40,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of \$2.1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$16,000, and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Want to apply? Read the rules and eligibility requirements and download the entry form before you submit your entry at your local VFW Post.

The 2018-19 theme is:
Why My Vote Matters

Contact Jason Dennis (806) 421-1677 emtjad@gmail.com for more information or go to:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

VFW Post 9022 901 S. Dumas Ave.

The prize for the winner at the local level is \$100 and will advance to District, then possibly State and National for the grand prize.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

www.vfw.org | info@vfw.org

Voice of Democracy Rules and Eligibility

WHO CAN ENTER

The Voice of Democracy Program is open to students in grades 9-12 (on the Oct. 31 deadline), who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States and its territories.

HOW TO ENTER

Download the Voice of Democracy entry form and brochure to submit your essay to your local VFW Post.

Students should record their reading of the draft to an audio CD or flash drive. The recording can be no shorter than three minutes and no longer than five minutes (plus or minus five seconds).

Entries begin at the Post level. Once the student creates their essay and completes burning the audio version to an audio CD/flash drive, they can submit their typed version, CD/flash drive and the Voice of Democracy entry form to their local participating VFW Post by the Oct. 31 deadline.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Originality is worth 30 points: Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points: Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to the other.

Delivery is worth 35 points: Speak in a clear and credible manner.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.