

RVOS ESSAY CONTEST 2010

American Rights 2.0: The Constitution in the 21st Century

ELIGIBILITY

All high-school seniors legally residing in the state of Texas are eligible to enter.

RULES

- Contest is open to all high-school seniors legally residing in the state of Texas.
- Entrant must be in 12th grade at the time of entry.
- Essay must be double-space typed and between 800 and 1,600 words.
- Essay must be submitted online **no later than 11:59 p.m. (CDT) on May 31st, 2010.**
- Essays must be submitted in PDF format and must include a coversheet with the entrant's name, mailing address and high school.
- Online voting period will be from June 5, 2010 through July 31, 2010.
- Essay must be solely the original work of the entrant. Plagiarized or partially plagiarized essays will be disqualified.
- Essays will be checked with plagiarism detection software.
- Entrants may submit only one essay.
- Decisions of the judges are final.
- Entrants will be notified of contest results by August 31, 2010.
- Winning entries may be published in RVOS Insurance's *Rolnik* magazine.
- All submitted entries become the property of RVOS and will not be returned.

TOPICS

Select ONE of the following topics:

- 1) *What is the significance of the Preamble to the United States Constitution, and what is its relevance today?*
- 2) *Which of the twenty-seven amendments to the United States Constitution is the most meaningful to you, and why?*

DEADLINE

Essays must be received **no later than 11:59 p.m. (CDT) on May 31st, 2010.**

JUDGING

- All essay entries will be posted online at rvos.com/essay to be voted on by site visitors beginning June 5, 2010. A unique URL will be sent to the entrant's email address on or before June 4 allowing them to share it with family, friends and neighbors. The unique URL will lead visitors to a specific essay so they can go online beginning June 5 to read the essay and place their vote.
- The ten essay entries receiving the most online votes by July 31, 2010 will be included in the final pool of essays to be judged by a panel selected by RVOS Insurance. The top three essays receiving the most online votes will each receive \$1,000.

- Essays will be judged on both style and content. Winning essays should tell a story that shows a true understanding of the U.S. Constitution, its importance and its intention, as well as its application to Americans' everyday lives now. Writing style should be clear, creative and compelling, as well as free of grammar, spelling or punctuation mistakes. Judging is a subjective endeavor and RVOS does not guarantee absolute objectivity in the decision making process.
- Essay submissions will be reviewed and ranked in a fair and impartial judging process. To ensure the anonymity of our participants, essay cover sheets are removed after the first round. Winners' names are unknown to judges until after essays have been ranked and the contest results finalized.

AWARDS

Grand Prize:	\$5,000
Second Place:	\$2,500
Third Place:	\$1,000
Honorable Mentions (5):	\$500

- * **Three entries receiving the most online votes will each receive \$1,000.**
The High School of the Grand Prize winner will receive \$500.

TO ENTER

- Submit your essay online at rvos.com/essay **no later than 11:59 p.m. (CDT) on May 31st, 2010.**
- You will receive an email confirmation of your entry submission within 24 hours. If it has been more than 24 hours and you have not received an email notification, please check your junk email first, then inquire via email at essay@rvos.com. DO NOT resubmit your essay.
- Students unable to submit their essays online may mail essays to: **RVOS Essay Contest, RVOS Insurance, P.O. Box 6106, Temple, TX 76503.**
- Essays submitted by USPS mail MUST include a stapled cover sheet that includes the following information: Name, Mailing address, Email address, School name and address, Topic selected, Name of the teacher who assigned the essay (if applicable).
- Essays submitted by USPS mail may receive verification of their entry submission by including a stamped, self-addressed postcard with their essay.
- Essays may be submitted by either email or USPS mail. DO NOT submit duplicate essays.
- **Please note: Essays submitted by USPS mail will not be eligible for online voting. These essays will be reviewed by RVOS-selected judges and will be eligible to be added to the final pool of entries.**

INQUIRIES

Comments or questions about the essay contest are welcome at essay@rvos.com.
 For more information about RVOS Insurance, please visit rvos.com.