

2019 FOURTH CIRCUIT ESSAY CONTEST



How has the right to freedom of speech established for public school students in the Supreme Court case of *Tinker v. Des Moines* evolved in the 50 years since it was decided?

Who May Enter

The essay contest is open to all students currently in grades 9 through 12 from Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. **Note:** Children, grandchildren, stepchildren, and members of the household of a federal judge or federal judiciary employee are excluded from the competition.

Length & Format

Essays are limited to **1000 words**. Citations should be placed in footnotes, endnotes, or bibliographies and excluded from the word count. Submit your essay as a Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat PDF document. Do not include your name on your essay.

Submission Deadline

Your essay and contest entry form must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on **Monday, April 15, 2019**. The contest entry form — found at www.ca4.uscourts.gov/essay-contest-2019 — includes instructions for submitting your essay.

Judging

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

- Understanding of constitutional principles (35 points)
- Clarity and effectiveness in expressing the theme (30 points)
- Grammar, spelling, and composition (20 points)
- Originality (15 points)

Awards

Winners will be announced in July, and travel will be provided to the court's Constitution Day event in September 2019.

Questions

Contact essaycontest@ca4.uscourts.gov or (804) 916-2706.

Missing the submission deadline, providing false entry information, and plagiarizing content are grounds for disqualification.

FIRST PRIZE
\$2,000

SECOND PRIZE
\$1,500

THIRD PRIZE
\$1,000

