



MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society 2015-16 Essay Contest

The Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society is sponsoring an essay contest that is open to Minnesota high school juniors and seniors. Students have an opportunity to compete for scholarships as they examine Magna Carta's impact on our society.

Essay Contest Issue for 2015-16:

We're honoring Magna Carta's 800th anniversary with this year's essay question. Magna Carta was created to temper King John's tyranny. For more information, check out <http://www.bl.uk/magna-carta> for a brief video, narrated by Monty Python's Terry Jones. Some of Magna Carta's basic tenets remain with us today. For example, our constitutional right to a trial before a jury of our peers is derived from Magna Carta.

Question to be answered: Explain the impact and relevance of Magna Carta and the United States Constitution on **one** of the following:

- current social movements (Black Lives Matter, etc.);
- key court decisions (*In re Gault*, etc.);
- calls for reform (Guantanamo Bay, Drones, NSA Bulk Data collection, etc.); or
- limited government.

Registration will be limited to the first 150 registrants.

Important Dates:

Online Contest Registration Begins:	November 16, 2015
Online Essay Submission Deadline:	January 22, 2016
Announcement of Winners:	March 4, 2016
Awards Luncheon:	May 6, 2016

The winners will be announced via email and online at <http://www.mncourthistory.org>.

Awards will be distributed before the close of the school year at an awards ceremony or via U.S. mail if winners are unable to attend the awards ceremony.



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What is the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society?

The Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society was founded by lawyers, educators, judges, and other legal professionals who have a deep and abiding interest in the history of this State and the profound role that Minnesota's courts have played in that history. Our mission is to collect, preserve, and promote Minnesota's judicial history and to serve the interests of the bench and bar, the academic community, and the general public through educational programs, publications, and support of scholarly research.

Contest Objective

High school juniors and seniors will soon be engaged as adults in everyday civil society where significant issues involving historical and constitutional issues arise; therefore, the 2015-16 Essay Contest issue has been developed to:

- Provide high school students with an understanding of the depth of history and subsequent application surrounding Magna Carta;
- Encourage high school students to explore their own philosophies of why and how a compromise reached between a king and his barons still affects us today;
- Engage high school teachers and students in the exploration of the consequences of living in a society that limits government; and
- Challenge high school students to strengthen their analytic and writing skills.

Eligibility

Minnesota high school students in grades 11 and 12 who attend a public or private school (including charter and alternative-learning programs) or who are home schooled in Minnesota are eligible to apply. Registration will be limited to the first 150 registrants.



ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

*ANY ENTRY THAT DOES NOT CONFORM TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS
WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.*

Format

- Type essay in English — free from spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors.
- Use Arial or Times New Roman font, 12-point.
- Double-space essay with 1" margins – top, bottom, right, and left.
- Place essay title on first page, top center.
- Include your **first and last name** and page number on all pages, top right.

Length

The essay length is limited to 750 to 1,250 words. Report the number of words used at the end of your essay text, prior to the bibliography or works-cited page.

Word count does not include the bibliography or works-cited page, nor works cited in footnotes, if footnotes are used.

To obtain essay word count without the number of words used in the bibliography or works cited, highlight essay text only, go to computer word-count tool (under tools on computer tool bar). The word-count tool will read only the highlighted words.

Bibliography – Works Cited

A minimum of four books, academic journals, news magazines, newspapers, court cases, government documents or publications are required for research on this year's assigned topic. You may use, but are not required to use or limited to, the resource suggestions on page 5.

A bibliography or works-cited page is required to identify research sources and should follow the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines. For more information, refer to the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01>. (Click on links in left column for more in-depth instruction.)

Research should include sources that examine more than one side of the issue. General encyclopedias (*i.e.*, Wikipedia, Britannica, Americana, World Book) are not acceptable resources. Reputable free web sources may be used only to obtain primary source materials (*i.e.* Internet Modern History Sourcebook), and the bibliography or works cited must list the primary document source as the reference.



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Online databases that index reference books, journals, magazines and newspapers are valid sources and must be cited according to the Modern Language Association's guidelines. See again: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01>.

The bibliography or works-cited page should be on a separate page at the conclusion of the essay.



Resource Suggestions

Resources that you may, but are not required to, consider. You are not limited to these sources.

Cases

City of St. Paul v. Morris, 104 N.W.2d 902 (Minn. 1960), *available at*
<http://law.justia.com/cases/minnesota/supreme-court/1960/37-909.html>.

In re Gault, 387 U.S. 1 (1967), *available at*
<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/387/1/case.html>.

Articles

http://www.americanbar.org/publications/insights_on_law_and_society/14/fall-2014/magna-carta-the-federalists--and-anti-federalists.html

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/magna-carta-principles-still-a-hot-topic-in-courts-even-after-800-years-300101067.html>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-588-year-path-to-limited-government/2015/06/12/50816308-1062-11e5-9726-49d6fa26a8c6_story.html

Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7nOHHbWIdk>

<http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/otist14-soc-maglaw/magna-carta-rule-of-law/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vtuQsWF3BY>

Websites

<http://www.bl.uk/magna-carta>



Judging Criteria — Total points possible – 100 points

Submission will be judged using the following criteria:

- **Organization** – use of introduction, discussion and conclusion (20 points)
 - **Your essay should be well organized, and include:**
 - **A clear introduction**
 - **A discussion portion with many supporting details**
 - **A clear conclusion**

- **Position Analysis and Support** (30 points)
 - **Your essay must state your position, which must be:**
 - **Clearly stated**
 - **Logical**
 - **Well-focused**
 - **Supported by many details or examples of connections**

- **Connection between Magna Carta and U.S. Constitution on a current issue** (20 points)
 - **Your essay must include a clear connection**

- **Mechanics** (15 points)
 - **Your essay must contain few or no grammar, spelling, punctuation, or capitalization errors, and include:**
 - **Appropriate and varied word choice**

- **Form** (15 points)
 - **Your essay must follow the requirements for format and length. It must also include a bibliography.**

Timeline

Online Registration Begins: November 16, 2015

Registration Process

- Visit www.mncourthistory.org and click on the “Register Here” link.
- Complete all required fields- **please include your first and last name.**
- Attest that all submitted work will be your own by clicking the agreement (required for registration and participation).
- Click “Send.”

Essay Submission Deadline: **January 22, 2016**

Submission Process

- Email your essay and bibliography/works cited page to director@mncourthistory.org



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Prizes

The MSCHS may award up to nine \$500 scholarships. Contest winners will be required to complete and sign a release form and, if the student is under the age of 18, that form must be countersigned by the student's parent/guardian. (Where the countersignature is required, the parent/guardian must also sign the parent/guardian release form at the bottom of the page.) Winners will be contacted and mailed the release form that must be completed and returned within 10 working days. (A sample of the release form appears at the end of this packet.)

There is no entry fee for participating.

Essay Contest Checklist

Deadlines:

- Complete online registration at www.mncourthistory.org (and include both your first **and last name**)
- Submit essay online NO LATER than January 22, 2016

Essay Format:

- Essay is written in English and free from spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors
- Essay is typed in Arial or Times New Roman font, 12-point, and is double-spaced
- Pages are formatted with 1" margins on all sides
- Essay has title on first page at the top and centered
- Essay contains writer's first and last name and a page number on each page in the top right corner
- Essay is 750 to 1,250 words and word count is noted at the end of the work before the bibliography (refer to the essay requirements about what words to count and how to obtain a word count.)

Bibliography:

- Essay contains a bibliography on a separate page at the end
- A MINIMUM of 4 works have been cited (see essay requirements for acceptable works)



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Release Form:

Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society (MSCHS) 2015-16 Essay Contest

The release form must be fully completed and submitted by winners in order to receive an award. Each winner will be notified and mailed the release, which must be returned to the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society Education Committee within 10 working days.

Student Release Form

Name: (please print first and last name) _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Note: School information is not required for home-schooled students.

School: _____

I state as follows:

1. I have read and accept the terms of the contest guidelines for the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society (MSCHS) 2015-16 Essay Contest (hereinafter the "Competition").
2. I warrant and represent that I personally created the essay that I submitted to the Competition. I further warrant and represent that the essay I submitted has not been published before its submission to this Competition and that any reference material I have used has been properly cited and not plagiarized.
3. I am a high school student in the 11th or 12th grade in Minnesota and a citizen and/or resident of the United States.
4. I am 18 years old or older, or, if I am younger than 18 years old, I have obtained the countersignature of my parent or legal guardian at the bottom of my release form.
5. I hereby release, discharge and hold harmless the MSCHS and its successors, assigns, officers, employees, and agents associated with the Competition from and against any and all liability, loss, damage, expense, claims, settlements, or judgments of any kind whatsoever, including attorney's fees, whether in contract or in tort, arising directly or indirectly as a result of my participation in the Competition, and my acceptance and use of a prize awarded to me.



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6. I consent to the use of my name, relevant biographical data and related pictures, portraits, photographs, voice or likeness, and use in any form of the essay entered by me in the Competition for editorial, advertising, promotional, and trade purposes in connection with the promotion by the MSCHS of this Competition and succeeding programs sponsored by the MSCHS. I release the MSCHS from all liabilities arising out of distortion, optical illusions, or faulty mechanical reproductions of my likeness. I acknowledge that I have no right to approve the advertising or promotional materials that include my likeness or the essay submitted by me to the Competition.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone number: _____

Parent's or legal guardian's countersignature (if student is under 18): _____

Please print name here: _____

Parent or Guardian Release Form

(To be completed by parent or guardian of a student under age 18.)

I, _____, hereby represent and warrant that I am the parent or legal guardian of the identified student and that I accept the same legal obligations in connection with this Competition, including but not limited to, the use of the minor's name, likeness and essay, and consent to the minor named herein accepting and receiving a prize. I also hereby release, discharge and hold harmless the MSCHS, successors, assigns, officers, employees and agents associated with the Competition from and against any and all liability, loss, damage, expense, claims, settlements or judgments of any kind whatsoever, including attorney's fees, whether in contract or in tort, which I or my heirs, executors or administrators may have arising directly or indirectly as a result of the minor's participation in the Competition and acceptance and receipt of a prize.

Name: (please print first and last name) _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone number: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____