



MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society Mondale-Quie Essay Contest

The Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society, with the support of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates and the Civil Litigation Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, is sponsoring an essay contest that is open to Minnesota high school juniors and seniors. Students have an opportunity receive up to \$1,000 in scholarship money as they examine the role of the judiciary in our society.

Mondale-Quie Essay Contest Issue for 2020-2021:

2020 saw the global spread of COVID-19, a deadly respiratory disease. It quickly became clear that close contact between individuals facilitated the disease's spread. In response, governments have enacted policies to restrict peoples' movements, limiting their ability to leave their homes. Policymakers also limit the number of individuals who could gather in certain places, closing schools, places of worship, and large public events. As public health officials have learned more about how the virus is spread and the benefits of wearing face coverings, leaders have required individuals to wear masks indoors.

Supporters of these measures argue the restrictions are necessary to limit the spread of the coronavirus and save lives. But these "lock-downs" and other restrictions have quickly become sources of contention. Their detractors point to the negative impact these policies have on the economy and individual businesses. Opponents also contend the policies improperly limit individuals' freedom. Supporters counter that the benefits of these policies in lives saved outweigh their negative consequences and will help the economy in the long run. These debates persist today.

Question to be answered: The COVID-19 pandemic is not the first time a national emergency has caused the country to weigh public health and safety against individual liberty. Examples include the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus during the Civil War; the Espionage and Sedition Acts during World War I; the Spanish Flu of 1918; the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II; the War on Terror; and, very recently, curfews in response to racial unrest. Based on the U.S. and Minnesota Constitutions, can and, under what circumstances, should, the government limit personal rights during an emergency?



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Important Dates:

Online Contest Registration Begins:	October 23, 2020
Online Essay Submission Deadline:	January 19, 2021
Announcement of Winners:	March 31, 2021
Awards Luncheon:	May 2021

Winners will be announced via email and online at <https://mncourthistory.wildapricot.org/Essay-Contest>.

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 or the awards ceremony cannot happen in person.

What is the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society?

The Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society (“MSCHS”) 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 must prepare to engage in everyday civil society where significant issues involving historical and constitutional issues arise; therefore, the Mondale-Quie Essay Contest issue has been developed to:

- Provide high school students with an understanding of the judiciary, including its role in society;
- Engage high school teachers and students in the exploration of the role of the judiciary in their lives; 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.

Questions

Please direct questions to director.mschs@gmail.com.



ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

ANY ENTRY THAT DOES NOT CONFORM TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS MAY 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 must be between 750 and 1,250 words. State the number of words used at the end of your essay text, prior to the bibliography or works-cited page.

Word count excludes the bibliography or works-cited page, works cited in footnotes or endnotes, if such 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, summaries of court cases, government documents or publications are required for research on this year's assigned topic. With the exception of the Lesson Plans for Teachers, all of the resource suggestions on page 6 are acceptable. You are not required to use, nor are you limited to, the resource suggestions on page 6.

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.)



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Research should include sources that examine more than one side of the issue. General encyclopedias (e.g., Wikipedia, Britannica, Americana, and World Book) are unacceptable resources.

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.



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RESOURCE SUGGESTIONS

Below are resources that you may, but are not required to, consider. You are not limited to these resources.

Constitutional Provisions

United States Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment I

No state shall . . . deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Amendment XIV

The Privileges of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 2

Minnesota Constitution

No member of this state shall be disfranchised or deprived of any of the rights or privileges secured to any citizen thereof, unless by the law of the land or the judgment of his peers.

Article I, Section 2

The liberty of the press shall forever remain inviolate, and all persons may freely speak, write and publish their sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of such right.



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Article I, Section 3

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated.

Article I, Section 10

Cases

[Boumediene v. Bush](#), Constitutional Law Reporter

[Jacobson v. Massachusetts](#), Pace University Law School

[Korematsu v. U.S.](#), United States Courts

Websites

[Curfews](#), The First Amendment Encyclopedia

[Compagnie Francaise de Navigation a Vapeur v Louisiana Board of Health](#) (1902), YouTube

[The Espionage and Sedition Acts](#), C-Span

[U.S. Congress Passes the Sedition Act](#), History.com

Articles

[Good Question: When Can Governments Call A Curfew?](#), WCCO

[Guantanamo Litigation History](#), Lawfare

[Michigan Supreme Court Sets Limits on Emergency Powers: Impacts on Residents and Businesses](#), Foley

[Lincoln and Taney's great writ showdown](#), National Constitution Center

[Pa. Supreme Court throws out GOP challenge to Wolf's COVID-19 emergency order](#), Pennsylvania Capital-Star

[What would Minnesota Republicans do differently than Walz on COVID-19?](#), Star Tribune



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[Republican Judges Are Quietly Upending Public Health Laws](#), New York Times

[The Constitution and the Coronavirus](#), from “We the People” podcast from the National Constitution Center

[A Guide to Emergency Powers and Their Use](#), Brennan Center for Justice

Lesson Plans for Teachers (Not for Use in Essay Contest)

[Lincoln and Habeas Corpus](#), Bill of Rights Institute

[Wilson and the Espionage Act](#), Bill of Rights Institute

[Individual Rights versus Common Good \(Natural Rights Philosophy versus Classical Republicanism\)](#), Learning Law and Democracy Foundation

[Abraham Lincoln and Wartime Politics](#), EDSITEment!

[Japanese Internment](#), Teaching Tolerance

[Foreign War and Domestic Freedom: A Delicate Balancing Act](#), PBS

[The Protections of Minnesota's Constitution](#), PBS Learning Media



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**
- **Impact of Your Position on Students** (20 points)
 - **Your essay must include a clear statement of the impact and many examples**
- **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**



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Timeline

Online Registration Begins: October 23, 2020

Registration Process

- Visit www.mncourthistory.org and click on the “Register Here” link
- Complete all required fields. **Please include your first and last name**
- Click “Send”

Essay Submission Deadline: **January 19, 2021**

Submission Process

- Email your essay and bibliography/works cited page to director.mschs@gmail.com

Prizes

The MSCHS will award scholarships to the top three essays: First Place: \$1,000; Second Place: \$750; Third Place \$500. Scholarship recipients must complete and sign a release form and, if the student is under the age of 18, that form must be co-signed by the student’s parent/guardian. (Where the co-signature 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, which must be completed and returned within 10 working days. (A sample of the release form appears at the end of this packet.) First and second place winners will also need to complete a [W-9 tax form](#) and will be issued a 1099.

There is no entry fee for participating.



Essay Contest Checklist

Deadlines:

- Complete online registration at <https://mncourthistory.wildapricot.org/Essay-Contest> (and include both your first **and last name**)
- Submit essay online NO LATER than January 19, 2021**

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 or works-cited page 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) Mondale-Quie
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) Mondale-Quie 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.
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 attorneys' 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, 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: _____