



Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, Valley of Clarksburg, Orient of West Virginia

427 WEST PIKE STREET

CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301-2711

(304) 622-2361

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January 10, 2019

Jay Rector/Scholarship Coordinator
Tygarts Valley High School
RR 1, Box 290
Mill Creek, WV 26280

Re: "Americanism" Essay Contest

Dear Counselor/Scholarship Coordinator:

The Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Valley of Clarksburg, is again sponsoring its' annual "**Americanism**" Essay Contest which is open to all public high school juniors and seniors in your county and seven (7) surrounding counties. This should also include any students currently placed on Homebound or in Alternative Learning Centers. Your Principal was sent a similar copy under separate cover.

Hopefully, you retained the "Scottish Rite Poster" from last year and will again place it in a strategic area (bulletin board, classroom, etc.) where interested students may view. If you are in need of another Poster, please contact our office at the number above. Please find enclosed a copy of our Guidelines which contains all pertinent information that is also on our colorful Poster. Feel free to make copies as needed of the Guidelines.

If at all possible, please have your essay/scholarship selection committee, English department or similarly qualified group rank each essay from 1 (highest) to 10 (lowest). This is important, especially in the event of a tie. On that occasion, we may use your ranking to break any ties. A ranking sheet is enclosed for this purpose. Judging guidelines will follow the West Virginia Writing Rubric-Grade 11 as was used with the Westest 2 Online Writing per enclosed copy.

Contest entries must be postmarked no later than **March 18, 2019**. In order for the contest to be successful, we need your cooperation and assistance to encourage student participation through class projects and/or individual initiative.

Thank you for your assistance, and if you have any questions whatsoever, please call me at home (304) 366-5401 or cell (304) 203-5401. In the meantime, I wish you and your students the best of luck in this contest!

Sincerely,

Charles T. McClain

Charles T. McClain, 33°
Chairman, Education Committee

Enclosures: Americanism Essay Guidelines, Rubric, Ranking Sheet

AMERICANISM

2019 ESSAY CONTEST

THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY VALLEY OF CLARKSBURG - ORIENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS: All High School Juniors and Seniors in Barbour, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Randolph, Taylor and Upshur Counties

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS: **Note:** Failure to comply with any of the Essay requirements may result in disqualification or reduction in the final score.

The subject must be patriotic and fall under the general category of Americanism.

It must not be more than 1,000 words in length and must have a title.

It must be submitted in typewritten form, double-spaced.

The cover page must show:

Entrant's full name, age, mailing address and phone number

Name of the entrant's school and school grade (11th or 12th)

Title of the entrant's essay/scholarship coordinator and phone number

JUDGING:

All essays will be judged by the Clarksburg Scottish Rite Education Committee based in part on content, grammar, spelling and punctuation. Judging will be primarily using the West Virginia Writing Rubric – Grade 11, was used with Westest 2 Online Writing.

The decision of the Judges will be final. (Any plagiarism will result in disqualification)

PRIZES:

The **First** place winner will receive a plaque and **\$500.00**, and their school will receive a donation of **\$250.00**.

The **Second** place winner will receive a plaque and **\$400.00**, and their school will receive a donation of **\$200.00**.

The **Third** place winner will receive a plaque and **\$300.00**, and their school will receive a donation of **\$150.00**.

Honorable Mention prize will consist of a plaque and **\$50.00**.

DEADLINES:

All entries must be returned, postmarked no later than **March 18, 2019**.
Winners will be notified by mail in **May, 2019**.

RETURN PROCEDURES:

All entries should be returned under one (1) cover, please.

Address entries to: **Clarksburg Scottish Rite**
c/o Education Committee
427 West Pike Street
Suite 501
Clarksburg, WV 26301-2774

Entrants should retain copies of their essays. All entries become the property of the Clarksburg Scottish Rite and may be published at the discretion of the Clarksburg Scottish Rite with authorship noted.

NOTE: Arrangements for presentation to Winners at each school will be made with the Principals and/or Counselors.

Tear and return below with cover page

Photo(s) and News Releases for publication: Student 18 or older, Parent or Guardian.

Print: Name of Student 18 or older/ Parent or Guardian.

Signature: Student 18 or older/ Parent or Guardian.

West Virginia Writing Rubric - Grade 11

	ORGANIZATION	DEVELOPMENT	SENTENCE STRUCTURE	WORD CHOICE/GRAMMAR USAGE
Score of 6	Exemplary Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategically placed topic sentence Clear and logical order Strong introductory paragraph, supporting paragraphs and concluding paragraph Sophisticated transition within and between sentences, ideas and paragraphs 	Exemplary Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sophisticated development of the topic for narrative and descriptive writing Sophisticated thesis statement and development of informative and persuasive writing Well executed progression of ideas Strong use of examples, evidence or relevant details Strong use of analogies, illustrations or anecdotes 	Exemplary Sentence Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sophisticated and well controlled sentences Sentence variation (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex) Variation of phrases and clauses (gerund, participial, infinitive, subordinate clauses) 	Exemplary Word Choice/ Grammar Usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vivid, precise, concise, relevant, Consistent grammar usage Subject/verb agreement Singular/plural nouns Verb (tense and usage) Pronoun usage Adjective/Adverb
Score of 5	Effective Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively placed topic sentence Clear and logical order Introductory paragraph, supporting paragraphs and concluding paragraph Purposeful transition within and between sentences, ideas and paragraphs 	Effective Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate development of the topic for narrative and descriptive writing Appropriate thesis statement and development of informative and persuasive writing Clear progression of ideas Clear use of examples, evidence or relevant details Clear use of analogies, illustrations or anecdotes 	Effective Sentence Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and correct sentences Sentence variation (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex) Variation of phrases and clauses (gerund, participial, infinitive, subordinate clauses) 	Effective Word Choice/ Grammar Usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate, precise/concise, clear Mostly consistent grammar usage Subject/verb agreement Singular/plural nouns Verb (tense and usage) Pronoun usage Adjective/Adverb
Score of 4	Adequate Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly stated topic sentence Evidence of a logical order Introductory paragraph, supporting paragraphs and concluding paragraph Appropriate transition within and between sentences, ideas and paragraphs 	Adequate Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient development of the topic for narrative and descriptive writing Sufficient thesis statement and development of informative and persuasive writing Progression of ideas Sufficient use of examples, evidence and/or relevant details Sufficient use of analogies, illustrations or anecdotes 	Adequate Sentence Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and correct sentences Sentence variation (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex) (errors in more complex sentence structure do not detract) Variation of phrases and clauses (gerund, participial, infinitive, subordinate clauses) 	Adequate Word Choice/ Grammar Usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate, specific Somewhat consistent grammar usage Subject/verb agreement Singular/plural nouns Verb (tense and usage) Pronoun usage Adjective/Adverb
Score of 3	Limited Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poorly stated topic sentence Some evidence of organization Introductory paragraph and concluding paragraph with limited supporting paragraphs Repetitive use of transition 	Limited Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited development of the topic for narrative and descriptive writing Limited thesis statement and development of informative and persuasive writing Limited progression of ideas Limited use of examples, evidence and/or relevant details Limited use of analogies, illustrations or anecdotes 	Limited Sentence Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor errors in sentence structure Limited sentence variation (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex) (errors in more complex sentence structure begin to detract) Limited use of phrases and clauses (gerund, participial, infinitive, subordinate clauses) 	Limited Word Choice/ Grammar Usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vague, redundant, simplistic Several inconsistencies in grammar usage Subject/verb agreement Singular/plural nouns Verb (tense and usage) Pronoun usage Adjective/Adverb
Score of 2	Minimal Organization/Minimal Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of acceptable topic sentence Lacks clear organizational pattern, sequencing of ideas and/or paragraphing May lack introductory paragraph, supporting paragraphs and/or concluding paragraph Ineffective or overused transition 	Minimal Development/Minimal Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal development of the topic for narrative and descriptive writing Minimal thesis statement and development of informative and persuasive writing Lacks a logical progression of ideas Minimal use of examples, and/or relevant details Minimal use of analogies, illustrations or anecdotes 	Minimal Sentence Structure/Minimal Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains fragments and/or run-ons Minimal sentence variation (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex) (errors in sentence structure detract) Minimal use of phrases and clauses (gerund, participial, infinitive, subordinate clauses) 	Minimal Word Choice/ Grammar Usage/Minimal Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate, imprecise, repetitive Frequent inconsistencies in grammar usage Subject/verb agreement Singular/plural nouns Verb (tense and usage) Pronoun usage Adjective/Adverb
Score of 1	Inadequate Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks stated topic No logical pattern; difficult to follow Inadequate paragraphing Little or no transition 	Inadequate Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little or no development of the topic for narrative and descriptive writing Unclear thesis statement and development of informative and persuasive writing Unclear or no focus Few or no examples, evidence and/or relevant details Little use of analogies, illustrations or anecdotes 	Inadequate Sentence Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains numerous fragments and/or run-ons Little or no sentence variation (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex) (errors in sentence structure detract) Little or no use of phrases and clauses (gerund, participial, infinitive, subordinate clauses) 	Inadequate Word Choice/ Grammar Usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rambling, inappropriate, incorrect, unclear Distracting inconsistencies in grammar usage Subject/verb agreement Singular/plural nouns Verb (tense and usage) Pronoun usage Adjective/Adverb

2019 AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Tygarts Valley High School

(1 (Highest) Thru 10 (Lowest))

STUDENT NAME

RANK