The Essex Vicinage Law Day program has played an integral part in educating county students and the community since the program was established in 1995. Amid unprecedented global shifts due to novel coronavirus (COVID-19), uncertainty and school closures; interest in the Essex Vicinage Law Day Program remained. As educators and families prepared for the shift to virtual learning, the impending transition motivated the Law Day committee to extend deadlines and expand art submission guidelines to accommodate the move online. While virtual participation is not a new component of the law day program, electronic submission of artwork had not been considered previously. Slight changes coupled with the commitment of principals, teachers, students and their families that has allowed us to successfully continue our traditions in recognition of this national event.

The Superior Court of New Jersey Essex Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns first expanded the Law Day celebration into a public education event to involve the community in 1995. The program targeted Essex County students and exposed them to the courts through engaging and rewarding activities. In 1997, Assignment Judge Alvin Weiss, decided to expand the Law Day Program to include a mock trial component, which continues till this day. Mock trial competitions have afforded Essex County judges, attorneys and other court staff the opportunity to visit community schools to perform a fictitious court case with the students. This experience has provided students with an opportunity to learn about our great laws and system of government. Although we were unable to host our mock trial program this year, we are excited to reimagine this component to ensure it remains part of our annual tradition in the coming years.

The success of this program is attributed to the combined efforts of Essex Vicinage Superior Court, the Essex County Bar Association, the New Jersey Bar Foundation, the IOLTA Grant, and the Essex County Sheriff’s Office. Both the bench and the bar look forward each year to the opportunity for judges and attorneys to interact with future leaders and discuss their perceptions of the legal system. The hard work and dedication of the judges, attorneys, teachers, students and other volunteers is commendable. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support and look forward to your participation in future Law Day programs.

2020 Essex Vicinage Law Day Planning Committee
The Law Day 2020 theme is “Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100.”

In 2019-2020, the United States is commemorating the centennial of the transformative constitutional amendment that guaranteed the right of citizens to vote would not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex. American women fought for, and won, the vote through their voice and action. The women’s suffrage movement forever changed America, expanding representative democracy and inspiring other popular movements for constitutional change and reform. Yet, honest reflection on the suffrage movement reveals complexity and tensions over race and class that remain part of the ongoing story of the Nineteenth Amendment and its legacies.

The Law Day 2020 theme urges all of us to explore these legacies while also encouraging citizens to exercise their rights and responsibilities as voters.

Source: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/law-day/
Date retrieved 8/27/2019
Art Contest Winners

First Place  Alexandra Li, 8th Grade  Grover Cleveland Middle School  Teacher: Mr. Kotlewski
Second Place  Dachelandy Chery, 8th Grade  University Middle School  Teacher: Mrs. Rua
Third Place  Marian Gueddes, 12th Grade  Barringer High School  Teacher: Mr. Martin
Honorable Mention  Dylan Brooks, 9th Grade  STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges  Teacher: Mrs. Gengaro
Honorable Mention  Rebecka Francois, 10th Grade  STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges  Teacher: Mrs. Gengaro
Honorable Mention  Zuleidys Bermudez, 12th Grade  Barringer High School  Teacher: Mr. Martin

Writing Contest Winners - Essay

First Place  Eric Abankwa, 8th Grade  Union Avenue Middle School  Teacher: Mr. Darbouze
Second Place  Zion Stewart, 7th Grade  University Middle School  Teacher: Mr. Ruby
Third Place  Ajanae Harris, 8th Grade  Union Avenue Middle School  Teacher: Mr. Walsh
Honorable Mention  Faythe Thomas, 7th Grade  University Middle School  Teacher: Mr. Ruby
Honorable Mention  Jocelyne Soriano, 8th Grade  Oliver Street School  Teacher: Ms. Bader

Writing Contest Winners - Poetry

First Place  Keshima Smith, 10th Grade  STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges  Teacher: Mrs. Gengaro
Second Place  Nonye Obiora, 7th Grade  University Middle School  Teacher: Mr. Ruby
Third Place  Caroline Almaraz, 8th Grade  Union Avenue Middle School  Teacher: Mr. Walsh
Honorable Mention  Autumn Tarver, 9th Grade  STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges  Teacher: Mrs. Gengaro
Honorable Mention  Christ-Nathanael Benoit, 8th Grade  Union Avenue Middle School  Teacher: Mr. Walsh

Video Contest Winners

First Place  Andy Jean-Francois, Brad Yac-Diaz, Brianna Wilson and Cassidy Stephen  10th Grade Students from East Orange STEM Academy  Teacher: Mrs. Maughan
Honorable Mention  Hasan Cherry, 3rd Grade  George Washington Carver Institute of Science & Technology
Art Contest

First Place

By Alexandra Li
8th Grade - Grover Cleveland Middle School
Art Contest

Second Place

By Dachelandy Chery
8th Grade - University Middle School
Art Contest

Third Place

By Marian Gueddes
12th Grade - Barringer High School
Art Contest

Honorable Mention

By Rebecka Francois
10th Grade - STEM
Innovation Academy of the Oranges

By Zuleidys Bermudez
12th Grade - Barringer High School
Art Contest

Honorable Mention

By Dylan Brooks
9th Grade - STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges
The 19th amendment, a period of time where women got the right to vote. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. In 1919 this amendment was passed by Congress June 4, 1919. In 1920 this amendment was ratified August 18, 1920. The right to vote helped protect women's reproduction and economic rights.

First, many people throughout this period were against this law and didn't think women should have the right to vote including the president. So many women came together to create a group and persuade others. In 1917, the National Women's Party was formed to help fight for women's rights. Leaders such as Alice Paul and Lucy Burns organized protests in Washington. At the time, President Woodrow Wilson was against the 19th amendment. Alice Paul was arrested and sent to jail where she held a hunger strike. In 1918, President Wilson changed his mind and decided to support the amendment and on August 26, 1920 the 19th Amendment was signed into law.

Many African American women joined suffrage organize at ions that addressed their specific experiences. Leading reformers including Harriet Tubman, Frances E.W. Harper, Ida B. Wells, and Mary Church Terrell formed the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC) in 1896. The NACWC campaigned in favor of women's suffrage and improved education and fought against Jim Crow laws. This shows that this kind of oppression affected all races, leading to more organizations to combat this injustice in the United States.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the role of women in American society was changing drastically. Women were working more, receiving a better education, bearing fewer children, and several states had authorized female suffrage. In 1913, the National Woman's party organized the voting power of these enfranchised women to elect congressional representatives who supported women's suffrage. In 1916 both the Democratic and Republican parties openly endorsed female enfranchisement.

New Jersey gave women the right to vote on February 9th, 1920. This marks 100 years since the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Other states like Virginia, ratified the 19th Amendment on February 12, 1952. That took thirty-two years to finally pass, along with Alabama accepting ratification on September 22, 1953. Thirty-three years after the passing of the 19th Amendment. What was surprising was Mississippi; finally passing the 19th Amendment on March 22, 1984. Another sixty-four years passed before finally officially allowing women the right to vote in that state.

Two years after the conclusion of World War I, Congress finally ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, guaranteeing the right to vote to all American citizens, regardless of sex. Finally, women across the nation would have an equal voice in the laws and politics that would govern them. This has had a major impact on society, because now women have a voice in the political process. They were able to shape government, society, and help inspire other movements. With a progressive society, many women have achieved their goals or even reached out for better. There is still room for improvement, that door will never close. The struggle for women continues, but with the passing of the 19th Amendment, it is a little less difficult for future generations.
Jeanette Rankin once said, "Men and women are like right and left hands; It doesn’t make sense not to use both." Rankin said this quote in the 19th century where women did not have the right to vote. But that all changed with the 19th Amendment, by letting every kind of person vote. The 19th Amendment is important because it gives all Americans the right to vote and it makes the world a little more equal.

The 19th Amendment makes the relatively new country of the United States have more equality for the different sex and races. People have been fighting for years and even going to jail just for equality and now they can finally be at rest from all this protest. New opinions spread all over the United States after the 19th Amendment was passed. For example, if it were not for women and their intellect, we would not have certain life-changing inventions today. One example is the fire escape which is pivotal to escaping dangerous fires which was created by Anna Connelly. If she would not have thought of putting a staircase by a window, most likely the people who survived a fire would have died. Women deserved to have the right to vote and equality dating back to the beginning of time due to their countless contributions made throughout the years.

In conclusion, the 19th Amendment is important just like our women too. Women helped create some of the greatest technological advancements in the world such as Google and YouTube. Women have been fighting for centuries and finally achieved a piece of the equality puzzle. Despite voting rights being granted to women, there is still gender and racial inequality today, and the fight for true equality continues.
Writing Contest
Third Place Essay

Our Voice, Our Democracy, Our Vote
By Ajanae Harris
8th Grade - Union Avenue Middle School

The Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution granted American women the right to vote. It was ratified on August 18, 1920, ending almost a century of protest. The 19th Amendment helped millions of women move closer to equality in all aspects of American life. Women advocated for job opportunities, better wages, education, sex education, and birth control. This landmark event was neither the beginning nor the end of the story for women and their struggle for the right to vote. Women were the first organized group to protest at the gates of the president’s house.

In New Jersey women could vote as early as 1776. In 1790 the legislature re-worded the law to say "he or she," clarifying that both men and women had voting rights. Only single women could vote because married women could not own property. Many unmarried women voted in New Jersey in the 1790s and the very early 1800s. In 1797, the New Jersey government required voters to be free inhabitants. New Jersey was not alone in granting and then taking away the right to vote from women and African-Americans around the turn of the 1800s.

Each generation has its minority who vocally fights for change. Today, it seems that everywhere you turn there is another news story about the struggle for gay and lesbian rights, tax equality, or military service. One hundred and fifty years ago it was an even larger portion of the population’s turn, women. Throughout the 19th Century and into the 20th Century, women fought for equal rights under the law and most importantly the right to vote. Women were also entirely shut out of political activity. In Great Britain, women were so bound to their husbands that under 19th century British common law, they were barely considered people at all.

In conclusion, I think everyone should have the right to vote. We all should have had and continue to have equal rights because it is fair treatment. For this reason many of these same women became vocal participants of the Women’s Rights movement. People who are different from us and are of different genders should all have the same rights. We are all the same and should be treated the same.
Writing Contest
Honorable Mention Essay

Law Day Essay
By Faythe Thomas
7th Grade - University Middle School

Khalil Gibran once said “Life without Freedom is like a body without soul, and freedom without thought is like a confused spirit. .. life, freedom and thought are three-in-one, and are everlasting and shall never pass away.” So what is Freedom? Freedom is the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint. The 19th Amendment gave rights to all citizens of the United States to vote in 1920. By giving women the right to vote in 1920, the 19th Amendment opened up the door of equality between genders in the United States.

From this nation’s beginning to 1920, women were being treated differently from men. Women were expected to stay in the house, clean, and take care of children. In the 1800’s, women were represented as second class citizens without any true freedoms. In passing the 19th Amendment, women could now choose their future and feel the true sense of freedom of self-expression.

In the 1970’s, women started taking on life-risking jobs such as joining the military, police and becoming firefighters. As well, while the men were at war in the 1940s, women joined the work force to help fight against overseas oppression. Women started attending universities to pave the way for their futures and created a generation of educated and inspired women.

The 19th Amendment gave women freedom. Women chose to become educated and became teachers, businesswomen, and titans of industry. Many women are thankful for this amendment because of its ability to create real freedom that women today have taken and utilized to their fullest potential. Today, women are in the work force, running billion-dollar companies, and showing the whole world that women can do anything men can do.
Writing Contest
Honorable Mention Essay

The Fight for Equality
By Jocelyne Soriano
8th Grade - Oliver Street School

The 19th Amendment states "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." On August 18, 1920, the 19th amendment allowed women the right to vote. Since this amendment has been passed, women have been granted the opportunity to receive fairer wages, more job opportunities, and education. Women in the 19th century were known as "the weaker sex." They had to play a role as housewives and had no way to express their opinion without being degraded. Instead of pursuing a career and receiving equal education as men, women were expected to marry and have children. A woman's place was in the home, caring for her husband. Once a woman was married, she was the husband's property. (Crash Course) The husband would also have the authority of his wife's choices and property; however, property was a precondition to voting, and women were not allowed to own property, so they were cut off the political process. (Jessie Krats, p. 1) Without women's restless fights for equal rights, women wouldn’t be in the position they are today. It is because of the women's tireless efforts that we can vote, go to college, and receive equal level employment. With that said, we also must be aware of the inequality’s women are still facing today. Women can vote and receive an education, but they are still viewed as the weaker sex.

In 2019, women only made 79 cents for every dollar a male made. (Elkins, p. 1) Women today are still fighting for complete equality and we learned from our ancestors how to achieve this goal. For the past few years we have had women's marches and developed a #MeToo movement to prevent women from being overpowered by men. This is how the 19th amendment has impacted the lives of women and brought them closer to equality.
Century Woman
By Keshima Smith
10th Grade - STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of Sex”
Said the 19th amendment
And their century’s men
To the 19th century woman
“Here is hope.”
Said the 19th amendment
To the 20th century woman
“Here is history.”
Said the 19th amendment
To the 21st century woman

And today
I am grateful
Today I respond to that amendment
Filled with pride and purpose

I say, “Thank you.”
To the 19th century women
Having taken advantage of the amendment
Bearing the fact that their votes would change the course of history
I say, “Thank you.”
To the 21st century women
Who continue to utilize our power
And inspire girls like me who look up to them

Without the 19th century women
Urging their century’s men to create the 19th amendment
Without New Jersey’s courage
To be uncommon
And allow women to vote even in 1776

There would be no 20th century woman
There would be no 21st century woman
No hope.
No history.
A lesser pride and purpose
To be filled with on this day.
Happy Law Day.
Abolitionist, and American Suffragist,
Was a leader in the women’s right’s movement.
Assertive, and loving you might say she is
Then Who Is She?

Her Eyes,
Dazed into pure sunlight, in pitch darkness
Eyes like a visionary,
Eyes of a dreamer,
Eyes of a lover,
Then Who Is She?

Her Words,
Words of mouth, are words of capability and potential,
Words of mouth, are words of warmth and tenderness,
Words of mouth, are words of equity and integrity,
Words of mouth, are words of assurance and commitment,
Then Who Is She?

Her Mind,
Thinks like an idea in the middle of the night.
Her pace rather swift, though,
Holds ideas securely and firmly,
Then Who Is She?

Her Decisions,
Hard to penetrate,
Why?
They’re indestructible!
Takes to heart,
And puts them to play,
Then Who Is She?

Her Voice,
Demanding, yet settled and calm
Settled, she might say
“Yes we women are one!”
Assertive, she might say,
“Women and Men, were created EQUAL!”
Then Who Is She?
Law Day Poem
By Caroline Almaraz
8th Grade - Union Avenue Middle School

Women’s Right
We will Always Fight
For the greater good
We know we should
They just want to be heard
Why would this occur?

They want their rights
They have pride
Their voices are being ignored
So now they will shout even more
Females are protesting
Getting hurt and killed

Being forced to eat
Going on hunger strikes
Poor women being sent to jail
And some went to heaven
For being killed

They will raise their signs
Way up to the sky
Finally in 1920
The 19th amendment was trendy
It is “Women’s right to Vote”
Now the women can go home

No more dying
No more fighting
Finally after trying
They go what they wanted
They now can vote

So much inspiration
We thank that generation
If it weren’t for them
Many wouldn’t be able to vote today
Hip Hip Hurray!!!
The Ceiling
By Autumn Tarver
9th Grade - STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges

She
She whose thoughts dared to defy
They resisted all that others believed she couldn't be
As they looked up at the ceiling.

Yet thoughts were seemingly all she could live up to
Until she spoke to all who would listen
The many thoughts that dared to crack the ceiling
Only managed to touch it.

Their thoughts, lingering in the air
Contradicting their previous titles
“Housewives, cooks, cleaners”
It’s about time, don’t you think?

The oppressed spoke to the oppressors
Their suppressed anger and frustration forced to be released
The oppressors diffidently listened, doubtful of the success
After many long years, the ceiling finally began to crack.

Thoughts were brought to fruition
The oppressors faced the inevitable
Ambition paired with irresistible urgency
She changed the world with her head held high
She changed the world, her thoughts held high.

1920 was the year the ceiling shattered
The ceiling held sturdy for decades
No one seemed to have had the audacity
Until she performed the unimaginable, or until she dared to defy.
Women’s Right
They struggled for the fight
Men said a women’s job was cleaning the house
But they weren’t going to stay as quiet as a mouse
Having their voices unheard
They knew was utterly absurd

They should have taken note
That women most certainly deserved the right to vote
They deserved real pay
Working just as hard as men every day
For projecting their voices heard they were put in prison
What disgusting treatment they were given

Force fed through a tube through the nose
Why do u suppose
Beaten and abused
Why did it amuse
The fight was finally won
But the prejudice isn’t done

We continue to fight
They continue to try and deface us
And we will always make a fuss
Not because we are annoying or all those degrading names they call
But because we will not take no for an answer and we refuse to fall
The dawn of women’s freedom will grow and grow
And we will let you know!!!
Video Contest

First Place

No Real Rightz
By Brad Yac-Diaz, Cassidy Stephen, Andy Jean-Francois and Brianna Wilson
10th Grade Students from East Orange STEM Academy

Image featured above is a snapshot of the actual video submission. Video may be viewed at the following link
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NokCKTOZ1Lc
Video Contest
Honorable Mention

19th Amendment LET’S VOTE!
By Hasan Cherry
3rd Grade - George Washington Carver Institute of Science & Technology

Image featured above is a snapshot of the actual video submission. Video may be viewed at the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EeHlM6GCbU&feature=youtu.be
New Jersey, one of the first states to offer women suffrage in 1776, is doing much better in the “gender pay gap.” The difference is only 18.3% less for females after ten years of college.”

James Leon, University Middle School

“Our journey began
And we had a plan
Protests and campaigns
We broke the chains…”

Neri Pillacela, Wilson Avenue School

“Today, women are doing astonishing things. They are inventors, astronauts, senators, they are even running for president. But there is still more to be done for women to achieve gender equality. The vote was the first step.”

Karon Williams
Union Avenue Middle School

“A fool’s paradise
We’ve lived in it for awhile
Until women could vote…”

Sofia Alexandre, Wilson Avenue School

By Chelsea Rudden
Grover Cleveland Middle School

By Araceli Lala
University Middle School

By Angelina Vargas
University Middle School
Notable Artwork and Quotes
From Students

By Jamarie Jean, University Middle School

“The 19th Amendment was sanctioned,
From injustice to justice.
Women finally got what they deserved,
Their freedom, their right to vote, their voice
Was bestowed on that day.”

Teniola Awomorin, Thirteenth Avenue / Dr. MLK, Jr. Elementary School

“Torn down by most men, they pushed through,
and held their heads, up high, high for the stars,
they stood tall, as tall as any building,
and they fought back, hungry for more.
They did not fall, nor did they give up.
They kept their spirits and shouted
“We want justice!”

Sarai Frather, Union Avenue Middle School

By Shyann Wright
George Washington Carver Institute of Science & Technology

“Women worked very hard to gain the right to vote. Even though this didn’t come easy, it was all worth it in the end. Women are proving that they are able to do just what men can do and way more.”

Giselle Onyameh, University Middle School

“Women have immense capabilities.”

Valentina Fernandez, Oliver Street School
“In the 19th century, once women were married, they were bound to the house. The average 26-year-old female was expected to be a spouse.”

Hadiya Richards, North Star Academy

“The 19th Amendment had ended the fight. They were now able to vote and had many rights. Women and men were then equal that night. Some people did not agree, but women fought for freedom and equality.”

Dionne Benjamin, Union Avenue Middle School

“The Women’s Suffrage Movement was a decades-long fight to win the right to vote for women in the United States. Campaigning, marching, and protesting was not so simple; women were being threatened to stop this movement, receiving backlash and judgement, and some even passed away during this time.”

Faedra Madina Louis, University Middle School

“They suffered so I would not have to
They suffered for my suffrage
And nor I give my thanks,
In the words of Maya Angelou,
To the Phenomenal Women”
Who paved the way for me
To make a difference in our society
By voting.”

Oviany Philizaire, STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges
"With women gaining further representation, it paved the way for more diversity in politics and influenced ideals like social equality."

**Alex Ventura**
STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges

“Everything wouldn’t be stated in this paper if it wasn’t for the women who fought for women’s rights. Women wouldn’t be able to vote, life wouldn’t be fair for women, and society wouldn’t be the same.”

**Julia Ferreira, University Middle School**

“Women marched, were jailed and beaten all for the right to vote.”

**Trinity Pierce**
Union Avenue Middle School

“Did you know that if it was not for a senator’s mother the 19th Amendment wouldn’t have been ratified?"

**Joy Okaro, Union Avenue Middle School**

By Saphira Negron, Thirteenth Avenue/Dr. MLK, Jr. Elementary School
Acknowledgements

The Essex Vicinage would like to thank

ALL participating Essex County Schools, Teachers, Students & Parents

Essex Vicinage Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria

Essex Vicinage Trial Court Administrator Amy K. DePaul

Essex County Bar Foundation

New Jersey State Bar Foundation

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For information regarding the Essex Vicinage 2020 Law Day program and future events visit WWW.NJCOURTS.GOV
At the top of the homepage go to “COURTS”, under “County Courts” select “Essex” and at the bottom of that page click “Essex Law Day 2020”. 
2020 Law Day Participants

Barringer High School
Berkeley Terrace Elementary School
Chancellor Avenue Elementary School
Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School
Dionne Warwick Institute
East Orange Campus H.S.
East Orange STEM Academy H.S.
Essex County Donald M. Payne Sr. School of Technology
Florence Avenue School
George Washington Carver Institute of Science & Technology
Gordon Parks Academy
Grandview Elementary School
Grove Street Elementary School
Grover Cleveland Elementary School
Hawkins Street School
Irvington High School
James Caldwell H.S.
Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. Academy
Lester C. Noecker School
Lincoln Elementary School
Louise A. Spencer School
Luis Munoz Marin School for Social Justice
McKinley Elementary School
Mount Vernon Avenue Elementary School
North Star Academy
Oliver Street School
Orange Preparatory Academy
Radcliffe Elementary School
Robert Treat Academy Stephen N. Adubato Campus
STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges
Union Avenue Middle School
University Elementary School
University Middle School
Wilson Avenue Elementary School

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