

Administrative Office of the Courts

2026 Judiciary Statewide Law Day Essay Contest



Who can participate?

The statewide essay contest is open to New Jersey students in the equivalent of grade levels 3 through 12.

How do I submit?

The essays should be submitted in **PDF format** via email to lawday2026.mailbox@njcourts.gov by **May 1, 2026**. The essay should include a title. The author's information should be included only in the accompanying email.

What contact information should I include in my email?

While the essay should list only the title, the email should include:

- the student's name;
- the title of the student's essay;
- the student's grade level; and
- the municipality (city, town, or township) where the student attends school; and
- the teacher's and parent's/ guardian's email address and telephone number.

Each year, we celebrate national Law Day to recognize the importance of the rule of the law and the rights guaranteed by our constitution.

This year's national Law Day theme is **"The Rule of Law and the American Dream."**

As part of the statewide observance of Law Day and the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Judiciary is inviting students across New Jersey to participate in an essay contest on this year's Law Day theme. Students in the equivalent of grades 3 through 12 are invited to submit an essay (250 to 400 words in length) that addresses one or all of the following questions:

- *How does the rule of law advance the ideas and promises stated in the Declaration of Independence?*
- *How does the rule of law help ensure that everyone gets the same rights and freedoms promised in the Declaration of Independence?*
- *How do rules and laws ensure everyone is treated fairly, as promised in the Declaration of Independence?*

All submissions should be original work. Winning essays will be selected based on how effectively the essay communicates the main ideas of this year's Law Day theme. Any use of generative AI in researching the topic should be consistent with the student's school district AI use policy. Generative AI should not be used to write the essay.

Additional Questions

For more information, contact the Judiciary Office of Communications and Community Relations at lawday2026.mailbox@njcourts.gov.



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