



**Americanism Essay Contest
2018-2019 Department of Maryland Cover Sheet**

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), Department of Maryland, Inc., sponsors an **Americanism Essay Contest** for students in **grades 3-8**. Grade levels are divided into three groups. Three awards in each of the three groups will be presented in each Unit, District and Department, with prizes at each level. First place Department winners will be sent to the National Competition. The contest time frame is November 1-January 31.

Essay Title: "How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?"

Essay Groups:	Group	Grade Level	Word Requirement
	I	3 and 4	150-250
	II	5 and 6	250-300
	III	7 and 8	350-400
	IV	Students with Special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level

Essay Checklist

- Group competing in _____
- Sponsoring ALA unit _____
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for group
- Completed essay cover sheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay _____
- Student signature at end of essay

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____
Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____
E-mail Address: _____
Phone: _____
School Name: _____
School City/State: _____
Teacher Name and Signature: _____

Maryland Public School Districts are not a sponsor of this contest; however, student participation is encouraged to complement academic growth and endeavors.

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: Damascus ALA unit 171

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: Kei H. Cole

Unit winners due to District President by March 1, 2019 District SMD

District winners due to Department Americanism Chairman by March 20, 2019

Dear Teacher:

Damascus Unit 171 American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maryland, Inc., is once again sponsoring the Americanism Essay Contest in our area. Prizes will be awarded on Local, District, State and National levels.

Group I – Grades 3 & 4 (150-250 words)

Group II – Grades 5 & 6 (250-300 words)

Group III – Grades 7 & 8 (350-400 words)

Group IV—Students with special needs* (word count to correspond with grade level)

*Students with special needs are defined as: those in special education classes, a student recommended for special education classes, but who has not been admitted due to a waiting list or various other factors, a child identified as having a disability, but not in a special education class due to lack of facilities, identification contingent upon discretion of school officials. In Maryland, a student with special needs will normally have an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

The title for the essay for all classes, which fits well with the core goals for the grade levels listed, as well as for exploring opportunities for community service, is:

“How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?”

Guidelines:

All words must be counted, including “a” & “an”, etc. Any essay containing more than the specified total of words will be disqualified. Essays must be handwritten or typed. **All entries must contain the Official Americanism Essay Cover Contest 2018 Sheet** with the following information:

1. Student’s name, address, phone number and e-mail address.
2. Teacher’s verification of grade level, school name and address
3. Sponsoring Unit’s name & sponsoring department’s State is Department of Maryland, Inc.
4. **All entries must be signed by the student at the END OF THE ESSAY.**
5. Teachers **MUST** sign all entries on the Official Department of Maryland Cover Sheet.

All entries will be picked up from the from the school office on or about February 1, 2019.

Judges will be individuals who are not members of our organization. All decisions of the judges will be final. Awards for each of the four groups will be given to first second and third place winners. {Awards (cash amounts) vary with each Unit and District} All first-place winners at a Unit level will advance to the District level. All first place winners at the District level advance to the State (Department) level for judging.

Judges will be scoring for the following:

1. Choice of Subject—50%
 - a. Originality
 - b. Relation to Title
2. Organization of Subject—30%
 - a. Unity (avoid irrelevant matter)
 - b. Emphasis (good proportion-arrangement of parts in relation to importance)
 - c. Coherence
3. Correct Usage—20%
 - a. Choice of Words (free of trite, overused expressions)
 - b. Effective sentences (neatness, correct spelling, grammar and punctuation).

I would appreciate it if a point of contact at your school would call or e-mail by January 31, 2019 and let me know how many students have entries. These essays will be picked up on or about February 1, 2019. I can be reached on my cell (240-832-7733). You may also e-mail me at winklerkelli@yahoo.com. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kelli Cole, Americanism Chairman

Damascus Unit 171 American Legion Auxiliary