

## *The Lincoln Lyceum: Summer Essay Contest Guidelines*

**“...the noblest cause--that of establishing and maintaining civil and religious liberty.”**

ACCS is pleased to announce a national essay contest this summer with cash honoraria both for entrants and for the winning essays. Rhetoric school students from ACCS member schools are eligible to submit essays.

The contest originally began at The Wilberforce School in Princeton, New Jersey in 2020. The topic changes each year and is intended to stimulate reflection, reading, thought and debate on important topics. The contest is made possible through friends of The Wilberforce School who care deeply about future Christian leaders. Contest details and prizes are below.

### **Judging:**

As is customary, ACCS schools submitting a student's essay must also provide a qualified judge who will judge all other entries except the one from their school. When submitting an essay, please indicate the name of your school's judge and their email address.

Essays will be judged anonymously (the school's name will not be on the essay when it is graded) by qualified judges. Essays will be screened for plagiarism or AI. See the contest topic and details below.

### **Summer 2023 Essay Topic:**

It is December 2025. The newly elected President of the United States is preparing to take the oath of office in January. The President is grateful for the formative role that his military experience played in his life as both a man and citizen, and has therefore made it a central plank of his program for national renewal that every male citizen of the United States must serve in the U.S. military for one (1) year before the age of 22. He is fond of reciting a quote from Robert F. Kennedy (the former US Attorney General), "Since the days of Greece and Rome, when the word 'citizen' was a title of honor, we have often seen more emphasis put on the rights of citizenship than on its responsibilities." As a key member of the policy team, you are tasked with making the case for mandatory military service to both Congress and a skeptical American public. Your task is to present the most convincing argument possible for this policy, and address the strongest potential counter-arguments, drawing from whatever sources you choose. The President has asked for your position paper to be no more than 1,000 words. Note: The President requires you to include 2 quotes from actual interviews you have conducted of adults who were eligible for the draft during the years when the draft was the law (1948-1973).

*Note: To qualify, the essay must be of a quality consistent with ACCS writing standards.*

Essays will be judged anonymously (the school's name will not be on the essay when it is graded) by qualified judges. Essays will be screened for plagiarism and AI.

**Prizes:**

The first 25 students who submit a qualifying essay will be awarded \$100 for submitting the essay.

1. Honorarium for 1st place: \$2,500
2. Honorarium for 2nd place: \$1,500
3. Honorarium for 3rd place: \$1,000
4. Honorarium for 4th place: \$750
5. Honorarium for 5th place: \$500

**Length:**

Maximum word count is 1,000.

**Due Date:**

All essays must be submitted by 8am on Friday, July 31st, using the Entry Form in the Member Resource Center. The essay must be attached in Word or Google Document format. Late submissions will not be considered.

**Eligibility:**

Students entering 10th, 11th, and 12th grade.