



CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

FREE EXPRESSION IN A FREE SOCIETY

OFFICIAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES

- I. **Relation to Theme:** All topics must be clearly related to the theme, FREE EXPRESSION IN A FREE SOCIETY. Topic selection is not limited to those regarding the United States or the Bill of Rights, but can be about any issue relating to the theme as applicable to any nation, people, or group in the world. Topics may address either historical or current events, and may even endeavor to provide educated speculation regarding future impact.
- II. **Student Participation Requirements:** A student may participate in the research, preparation, and presentation of only one entry each year. Students may participate either as an individual or in a group of 2 to 5 students. Students may enter in the appropriate division: Junior – Grades 6-8; Senior – Grades 9-12.
- III. **Students are responsible for:** the research, design, production, and presentation of all entries. Adult guidance and assistance is limited to the following:
 - A. Typing, printing, or copying of the summary description or other written materials – students must author all original materials themselves;
 - B. Clarification of factual issues – students can ask an adult to explain confusing or unclear factual issues, but must draw any conclusions about these facts themselves;
 - C. Photographs and slides may be professionally developed; professional photographs, film, slides, and recorded music may be incorporated into the presentation so long as proper credit is given.Students are responsible for the operation of any production or editing equipment used in the preparation of their presentation. Also, any dramatization, narration, or voice-overs are limited to the students creating and submitting the entry.

United States Copyright Law protects original works such as writings, music, motion pictures, videos, photographs, and illustrations. In general, copyright law forbids the use of such material without the permission of the person or entity owning the copyright. If a student entry uses such materials, the student is responsible for providing appropriate citations and securing written permission from the copyright owner.

However, students may make “fair use” of copyrighted materials for the purposes of criticism, scholarship or research. To determine whether the use of copyrighted material is a “fair use” requires the weighing and balancing of various factors:

- 1) the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- 2) the nature of the copyrighted work (creative works are afforded greater protection than factual works);
- 3) the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
- 4) the effect of the use upon the potential market for the value of the copyrighted work. The fact that a work is unpublished shall not itself bar a finding of “fair use” if such finding is made upon consideration of all the above factors

U.S. Code Title 17, Section 107

As the legal analysis of “fair use” is complicated and violations are decided on a case-by-case basis, it is best to minimize the use of copyrighted material or obtain written permission from the owner.

- IV. **Equipment:** Students may utilize any audio-visual, computer, or multi-media technology they wish to in the development of the entry, but the final product must be displayable in VHS video format.
- V. **Students may enter or revise a video that was made for another and/or prior competition as long as it adheres to the theme.** However, revising or reusing a prior **Free Expression in a Free Society** entry (design or production) whether your own or another student's, is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification.
- VI. **Time Limits:** Each video presentation may not exceed 10 minutes in length.
- VII. **Required Written Materials:** Each video entry must be accompanied by the following:
 - A. Title Page: must include the entry title, student names, and division (junior or senior).
 - B. Summary Description: no more than 750 words in length which explains how research and development of the entry was conducted, and an explanation of how the topic relates to the

theme. The summary description should also discuss what media skills were learned and utilized in the process of developing the entry.

- C. In addition, a list of all sources used in the research and development of an entry, and an explanation on how that source was or was not helpful in the preparation of the entry. All visual materials and oral interviews should also be included.

All written materials should be typed or neatly printed on plain white and stapled together in the top left corner. Do not enclose them in plastic or vinyl covers, folders, or binders.

VIII **Contest Participation:** To be officially entered in the competition, students must submit a completed entry form by the due date, as well as the video and required written materials by the published due dates. All students will receive notification by mail of their final status by the date indicated.

RELEASE: Winning videos and any related materials are sometimes duplicated, published, distributed and/or displayed by contest officials and/or CRF; you and your parents/guardians should be prepared to give permission for such duplication, publication, distribution and/or display because such permission is a requirement.

IX. **Judging Criteria:** Entries will be evaluated based upon the following criterion:

Quality of Research and Development: 40%

- Is the entry factually accurate?
- Does the entry show evidence of balanced, well-rounded research?
- Does the process paper indicate a variety of resources? Does it reflect the various viewpoints on the topic?
- Does the entry demonstrate clear understanding of the topic/issue and theme?
- Does the entry provide more than description or factual reporting, but rather analysis and interpretation of the research data?

Adherence to Theme: 30%

- Does the entry's topic/issue clearly relate to the theme, FREE EXPRESSION IN A FREE SOCIETY?
- Does the entry clearly demonstrate the topic's significance and importance?
- Does the entry demonstrate clear understanding of the concepts and principles of FREE EXPRESSION IN A FREE SOCIETY?

Quality of Presentation: 30%

- Is the visual material clearly presented? Is it well-organized and well-produced?
- Is the entry creative, original, and imaginative in subject and presentation?
- Are the written materials clear, grammatically correct, and well-written?
- Does it have visual impact?
- Does the process paper properly credit all non-student created audio/visuals?
- Is the presentation within the stated time limit of 10 minutes?

X. **Evaluation System:** A non-numerical evaluation system will be used which will be based upon the following standards:

- ❖ **Outstanding:** entry fully accomplishes the criteria in an outstanding manner. Entry was clearly focused on the criteria and has been exemplary in reflecting this focus through the presentation. This criterion could not be improved upon.
- ❖ **Excellent:** entry completes the criteria in a thorough manner. Entry was focused on the criteria and has clearly reflected this focus in the presentation. Entry is well above-average on the criteria.
- ❖ **Good:** entry substantially completes the criteria, with some ideas or concepts missing. Entry demonstrates clear awareness of the criteria and reflects this awareness through the presentation. Entry is above-average on the criteria.
- ❖ **Satisfactory:** entry partially completes the criteria, with fair analysis. Entry demonstrates some awareness of the criteria but this awareness is not consistently reflected in the presentation. Entry is average on the criteria.
- ❖ **Minimal:** entry completes the criteria with inconsistent results. Entry shows little awareness of the criteria and this is reflected in the presentation. Entry is below-average on the criteria.

XI. **Rule Infractions:** Plagiarism or **Free Expression in a Free Society** entry re-use will result in automatic disqualification.