

We're Looking for New Voices in BRIA!

Bill of Rights In Action Write-On Competition Rules

Welcome to the *Bill of Rights in Action* (BRIA) Write-On Competition. Lessons in BRIA are balanced, nonpartisan, rigorous, and grade-level appropriate, often highlighting current controversies with multiple perspectives. The winners of this competition each will have their submitted article published in BRIA with a \$300 stipend.

Please abide by the following rules when submitting drafts of your written work for BRIA:

1. Each draft should consist of (a) the article (aka the reading); (b) three questions for “Writing & Discussion;” and (c) an activity for students based on the reading with an assessment component (see Checklist below). The total word count for the reading should be between 1,500 to 1,600 words. The questions and activity combined should be no more than 500 words. See below for guidelines on BRIA’s nonpartisan editorial approach.
2. There will be *one* winner chosen for *each* of the following topics (two winners total). Choose **ONE** of the following topics for this Write-On Competition:
 - **The World Health Organization: From Its Founding to the Coronavirus (high school world history)**
 - **Public Protest and the First Amendment in the Contemporary United States (middle school U.S. history)**
3. For this competition only, use footnotes for citations. Footnotes do not count toward the total word count.
4. Include a separate list of at least one California History-Social Science Content Standard that the reading addresses (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/>) and at least one national content standard that the reading addresses (<http://www2.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp>). (You may use the *California History-Social Science Framework* (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/hssframework.asp>) in lieu of California content standards; be sure to include chapter number and page number from the *Framework*.)
5. See examples of previous BRIA articles (<http://crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/archives>) to get an idea of the general structure of a BRIA article and BRIA activities.
6. *Your submission must be your own original work.* Make sure your full name appears in the header of all your submitted materials.
7. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS August 10, 2021, at 5:00 PM (PT).** Submit your competition entry using this Google form: <https://forms.gle/FTkuPMBJVNF9B9nr7>. If you are one of the two winners, you will be notified by September 10, 2021.
8. IMPORTANT: The winning submissions will be published in the second issue of BRIA for the 2021-2022 school year (vol. 37), subject to editing by BRIA editorial staff. Each of the two winners will also receive a \$300 stipend and may have opportunities to write for BRIA in the future. Questions? Email Damon Huss at damon@crf-usa.org.

Checklist

Documents you will need to submit:

- [] A completed submission form at <https://forms.gle/FTkuPMBJVNF9B9nr7> with the following documents:
 - [] the article (1,500-1,600 words) with footnotes;
 - [] at least three discussion questions and an activity for students (totaling no more than 500 words): The activity should be a role-play, simulation, or some other small-group discussion activity with an assessment component;
 - [] a separate list of at least one California History-Social Science Content Standard *or* reference to the *California History Social-Science Framework*, **and** at least one national content standard.

Keeping BRIA Articles Balanced

Bill of Rights in Action (BRIA) is published by Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF), a nonpartisan civic-education organization, and BRIA articles reflect CRF’s nonpartisanship. Articles and activities published in BRIA should be balanced.

Here are guidelines for writing balanced materials for CRF, excerpted from CRF’s policies and procedures for publications:

- CRF materials should present, overall, a variety of viewpoints and perspectives on current and historical controversies. This does not necessarily apply to a presentation of facts, history, or a topic which has been deemed a closed ethical or moral inquiry (e.g., whether the Holocaust took place).
- When presenting varying viewpoints and perspectives on potentially controversial or unresolved issues, CRF materials should endeavor to devote relatively “equal time” to differing sides (e.g., one side should not be presented in three pages and another in one sentence), focusing on a presentation of the several views and potential underlying supporting facts, not necessarily supporting a particular conclusion. However, this goal shall not be judged simply by number of paragraphs or sentences.
- Curricula and teaching materials should encourage constructive and inclusive debate and analysis of issues from a variety of viewpoints.
- Curricula and teaching materials should foster critical thinking, discussion, and presentation skills for students and readers.