

**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ESSAY CONTEST 2017–2018**

(This information is for chapter and school use)

<b>TOPIC:</b>	Topic for 2017–2018: Christopher Columbus, an Italian, managed to convince a Spanish monarch to fund his voyage. Discuss the reasons why a monarch from one country would be interested in hiring an explorer from a foreign country to complete such an important mission. What convinced the Spanish monarchy to support Christopher Columbus instead of Spanish explorers?
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	<b>All grade 9, 10, 11, and 12 students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are home schoolers, are eligible.</b> This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex or national origin. <b>DO NOT SUBMIT A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH WITH ENTRY.</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	Length is to be from 800–1,200 words.
<b>FORM:</b>	It is preferred that essays are typed, or prepared on a computer or word processor, using black type in a non-script font no smaller than 12 point or larger than 14 point. A limited vision student may use Braille, a tape recorder, or very large type. In this case, a written transcript must be included, as well as a teacher’s or physician’s letter attesting to the student’s special need. Students may also handwrite their essay using black ink. All of the essay must be the student’s original work. Each essay must have a title page listing the following: Title of Essay: <b>“Advantages and Disadvantages of Working Relationships Between Foreign Parties”</b> Contestant’s full name and address. (street, rural route, PO Box, city, state, zip code) <u>Note:</u> If the school’s regulations prohibit student contact information, then school contact information may be substituted. Contestant’s phone number (with area code) and e-mail address, if available Name of contestant’s school and grade level Name of sponsoring DAR chapter Number of words in essay
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY:</b>	<b>Essay must have a bibliography listing all references utilized. Internet resources, if used, should be cited in similar format to that used for printed resources. Add the electronic address used to access the document as supplementary information.</b> Any essay with information copied directly from sources without using quotes will be disqualified.
<b>JUDGING AND AWARDS:</b>	<b>Judging will be based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of material, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and neatness. Pictures, maps, drawings, graphics, and other such additions <i>will not</i> be considered in judging and should not be included.</b> Judging at the chapter levels is by three judges, including at least one non-DAR judge. Judging at other levels is by three judges, all of whom are non-DAR members. <b>CHAPTER:</b> One essay is selected as chapter winner and forwarded to the state American History chair for the state competition. Participation certificates may be presented by sponsoring chapter, if desired. A Christopher Columbus Essay Participation Certificate is available from The DAR Store. Winner certificates may be obtained from the Office of the Historian General. <b>STATE:</b> One essay is selected as the state winner and forwarded to the division vice chair of American History for division competition. The state winner receives a state winner certificate. Winner certificates may be obtained from the Office of the Historian General. <b>DIVISION:</b> One essay in each division is selected as the division winner and forwarded to the national vice chair in charge of the Christopher Columbus essay contest. National division winners will be recognized by NSDAR. Winner certificates may be obtained from the Office of the Historian General. <b>NATIONAL:</b> One essay is selected as the national winner. Second and third place winners are also selected. Judging at the national level is conducted by the National Italian American Foundation. The <b>national winner</b> will receive \$1,200 from the NIAF in addition to paid lodging and transportation to Washington, D.C. in October 2018 for the winner and one parent or guardian. The national winner must read the prize-winning essay at the Columbus Memorial, Washington, DC on Columbus Day (October 8, 2018). The second place national winner will receive \$500, and the third place national winner will receive \$300. (Chapters and states may present monetary awards and/or gifts in addition to the certificates if desired. DAR American History Essay Medals are <b>not</b> authorized for this contest.) <b>Note: All essays must first be submitted to a local chapter. Essays sent directly to the national chair or vice</b>
<b>DEADLINE:</b>	Chapter chairs should determine date for students/schools to forward essays to them to allow for judging to be completed prior to state deadline. <i>States with district level judging should set appropriate intermediate deadlines. Date assigned:</i>

**NAME AND PHONE NUMBER OF CHAPTER CONTACT PERSON** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF SPONSORING DAR CHAPTER** \_\_\_\_\_

If additional information about the contest is needed, please contact the Office of the Historian General, NSDAR, at  
1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006–5303 Phone: (202) 879–3256