



2026 Youth Essay Topics

Themes based on the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence

K-Grade 6 Topic:

If you could have dinner with a signer of the Declaration of Independence, who would it be, and what would you ask them?

Grades 7-12 Topic:

In what ways is the Declaration of Independence still relevant today?

Youth Essay Entry Guidelines:

Open to youth ages K-Grade 12. Individual essays may be the product of a classroom assignment or other contest. Entries must be typed, double spaced and corrected containing 500 to 750 words for grades 7-12 and 250-500 for K-Grade 6. Essays must also address the year's topic and include the youth's name, address, grade level and teacher's name.

Essay should be submitted online at www.foundingforward.org/awards/youth-essay/

Deadline for entries is:

March 1, 2026 with notice and presentation by June 15, 2026

and

June 1, 2026 with notice by September 1, 2026 and presentation by November 2026.

Entries Open on September 2, 2025

Please only one entry per person.