



**MNEA 2019 LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST**  
**Rules & Information**

**SPONSORS:** Missouri National Education Association  
Missouri Bar Young Lawyers Section

**ESSAY PROMPT:**  
**Grades 9-12**

For much of our history, freedoms such as speech and press were seen as fundamental, absolutely essential to effective government, the advancement of society and the enlightenment of individual citizens. Recent months have seen radio personalities deny the occurrence of school shootings, neo-Nazis take to the streets to put forth their racist agenda and the President of the United States denounce the media as “the enemy of the people.” In view of developments such as these, is it time to rethink, reconsider and revise the protection offered by the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press?

**Grades 4-8**

Those who designed our constitutional system believed that the freedom of speech and freedom of press were essential to our government running properly, vital to our society continuing to develop in a positive way and necessary for citizens to grow as individuals. Today, more than 200 years later, do you think freedom of speech and freedom of the press are as important as the Framers of our Constitution thought they were?

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students compete in three categories: grades 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

**CRITERIA:** Entries must be 700 words or less and typed or handwritten in ink. Attach completed cover sheet. **Do not include your name on the essay.** Entries will be judged on accuracy of information, clarity of expression, content and originality.

**DEADLINE:** **Send completed essays with attached cover sheets to Christy Lister at Nashua or deliver to the NKC-NEA office before 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 25, 2019.** Late entries cannot be accepted in order to meet the MNEA deadline.

**PRIZES:** Three state winners will be determined in each grade level by the state judges. First prize is \$300, second is \$200, and third is \$150. Finalists advancing to state-level competition will be posted at [www.mnea.org](http://www.mnea.org) by April 1. Essays of students winning **State-level awards will be presented in April 2019 at a banquet in Jefferson City.** The Missouri Bar will notify winners of the award banquet details.

**CONTEST**

**MATERIALS:** Visit [www.mnea.org/Missouri/Contests.aspx](http://www.mnea.org/Missouri/Contests.aspx).

For more information, contact Christy Lister at Nashua.  
(Over for cover sheet. Please make a copy to attach to each entry.)

