

### Past Winners

#### 2015

Topic: *Choose an important, often divisive, issue about which you have a strong opinion. Put yourself in the shoes of someone on the other side of the issue. Identify at least three reasons this individual would give to support her/his position. Describe how this exercise has – or has not – affected how you will think about and discuss divisive issues.*

First Place: Bay Foley-Cox, Charlotte Middle School, Charlotte  
Second Place: Zora Stewart, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Third Place: Emmanuel Dodson, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Honorable Mentions: Nicholas Boisvert, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Isabelle Desroches, Long Trail School, Dorset  
Anna Halladay, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Ophelia Keefe, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Nataleigh Noble, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Haley Swett, Upper Valley Waldorf Schol, Quechee

#### 2014

Topic: *Abraham Lincoln persevered, against all odds, to advance the cause of liberty and justice for all. Identify a leader who is currently striving locally, nationally or globally to make the world a better place, despite considerable obstacles. Explain why she or he inspires you and compare his or her leadership qualities with those of Lincoln's.*

First Place: Zoe Moskowitz, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Second Place: Cara Davis, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Third Place: Aidan May, Mt. Abraham Union Middle/High School, Bristol  
Honorable Mentions: Tori Bergstein, Charlotte Middle School, Charlotte  
May Gwenna Chalmers, Stratton Mountain School, Stratton  
Theodore Davis, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Molly Kenny, Lawton Middle School, Essex Junction  
Caroline Saba, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Ruby Smith, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Kathryn Turnbull, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington

#### 2013

Topic: *Is civil discourse necessary for civil society? Sometimes? Always? Never? Support your position.*

First Place: Isaac Dodson, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Second Place: Sarah Mangiacotti, Stratton Mountain School/Maple Street School, Manchester Center  
Third Place Tie: James Reilly, Maple Street School and Rebecca Berling, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Honorable Mentions: Conor Joyce, Hartford Memorial Middle School, White River Junction  
Sabrina Amorocho Laing, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Anneka Williams, Harwood Union Middle/High School, Moretown  
Maya Homziak, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington

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## 2012

Topic: *About what wrong in need of righting, or what opportunity to make a difference, do you feel passionately enough to try to do something to make your community, your state, your country or even the world a better place? As you answer this question, compare and/or contrast the values that motivate you to those that motivated Lincoln.*

First Place: Talia Boyers, Albert D. Lawton Intermediate School, Essex Junction

Second Place: Emma LeMay, Maple Street School, Manchester Center

Third Place: Mahli Knutson, Mount Abraham Middle/High School, Bristol

Honorable Mentions: Lucy Anderson, Mater Christi School, Shelburne

Peter Feehan, Albert D. Lawton Intermediate School, Essex Junction

Eva Paradiso, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington

Andrew Spencer, Arlington Memorial Middle/High School

## 2011

Topic: *If Lincoln was willing to tolerate slavery in the southern states, why was he so vehemently opposed to its extension into the territories?*

First Place: Nathan Treadway, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington

Second Place: Jesse Keel, Arlington Memorial Middle School/High School

Third Place: Loriston Fennell, Home Study student, North Thetford

Honorable Mentions: Caleb Battig, Home Study student, Essex Junction

Whitney Polich of Long Trail School, Dorset

## 2010

Topic: *Horace Greeley's Letter: Why Did Lincoln Respond?*

First Place: Ciaren Wade, Arlington Memorial High School

Second Place: Anna O'Malley, Albert D. Lawton Intermediate School, Essex Junction

Third Place: Sarabeth Rambold, Manchester Elementary School

Honorable Mentions: Fatema Boxwala, Albert D. Lawton Intermediate School, Essex Junction

Claire Cofelice, Maple Street School, Manchester Center

Will Helmetag, Long Trail School, Dorset

Caitlin M. Owen, Long Trail School, Dorset

Gailin Leah Higgins Pease, State Street School, Windsor

## 2009

Topic: *Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address: What Did He Mean?*

First Place: Lillian Dear, Long Trail School, Dorset

Second Place: Julia Gilbert, Main Street School, Montpelier

Third Place: Danielle Liguori, Essex Middle School, Essex Junction

Honorable Mentions: Eliza Farley, Arlington Memorial High School

Jordan LaMothe, Long Trail School, Dorset

## 2008

(Competition in Bennington County only)

Topic: *Write a speech as if you were giving Abraham Lincoln's Farewell Address to the Nation, 1869*

First Place: William Cousseau, Long Trail School, Dorset

Second Place: Nicole Ratelle, Long Trail School

Honorable Mentions: Izzy Kratzer, Maple Street School, Manchester Center

Daniel Frank, Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales School, Bennington

Aaryn Vaughn, Long Trail School, Dorset

Isabelle Barnard, Long Trail School, Dorset  
2007

(Competition in Bennington County only)

Topic: *What Made Lincoln a Great President?*

First Place: Henry Miles, Manchester Elementary School

Second Place: Morgan Foster, Arlington Memorial High School

Honorable Mentions: Tori Webber, Manchester Elementary School

Hannah Harrington, The Dorset School