

### Past Winners

2017

Topic: *Describe a current or recent event in which the actions of the participant(s) may be viewed as patriotic by some and as unpatriotic by others. Discuss the differing points of view. What is your position and why?*

First Place: Elyse Martin-Smith, Charlotte Central School, Charlotte  
Second Place: Liam Halstead, The Dorset School, Dorset  
Third Place: Alex Wick, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Honorable Mention: Liam Chiraseveenuprapund, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Honorable Mention: Grace DiStasio, Flood Brook School, Londonderry  
Honorable Mention: Sage E. Freeman, Stratton Mountain School, Stratton  
Honorable Mention: Valentine Giesey, Long Trail School, Dorset  
Honorable Mention: Anna Huener, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Honorable Mention: Luisa Louchheim, Charlotte Central School, Charlotte  
Honorable Mention: Jade Marantz, Long Trail School, Dorset  
Honorable Mention: Courtney McDermott, Charlotte Central School, Charlotte  
Honorable Mention: Madison Shepard, Mt. Abraham Union Middle/High School, Bristol

2016

Topic: *Why do you think racism persists in America: what factors contribute to its persistence and how can these factors be addressed in order to move the country toward a more perfect union?*

First Place: Livia Greenberg, Stratton Mountain School, Stratton  
Second Place: William O. K. Koch, Stratton Mountain School, Stratton  
Third Place: AriaH Holliman, Home Study, Middletown Springs  
Honorable Mentions: Jordan Sara Barbour, Barnet School, Barnet  
Emma Barker, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Asa Chalmers, Stratton Mountain School, Stratton  
Owen Croce, Stratton Mountain School, Stratton  
Zoe Cudney, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington  
Sadie Holmes, Charlotte Middle School, Charlotte  
Griffen MacFadyen, Stratton Mountain School, Stratton  
Sama Mahdi, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington

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

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## 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 Berlind, 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

## 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