

## 8th Grade Lincoln Essay Competition

2019 Winners

*Throughout history, people have been forced to reckon with difficult issues and have passed through what Abraham Lincoln might call “fiery trials.” Pick one person who inspires you because they have chosen to take on a daunting societal challenge. This challenge could be within their community, their state, their nation or the world. Describe the challenge this person is tackling, the actions they are taking, the character traits that compel them to act, and the lesson(s) you draw from their example.*

### Region One: Grand Isle, Franklin, Orleans, Essex, Lamoille, Caledonia, Washington Counties

**First Place, \$600**

**Sage Conley**

Sage wrote about Cindy Levin and her work with the organization Shot@Life  
Glover Community School, Glover; Teacher: Renée Piernot

**Second Place, \$400**

**Kathryn Cox**

Kathryn wrote about Emma Gonzalez and her efforts to rally support for gun control  
Harwood Union Middle School, Moretown; Teacher: Sarah Ibson

**Third Place, \$200**

**Jillian Stevens**

Jillian wrote about Boyan Slat and his organization The Ocean Cleanup  
Glover Community School, Glover; Teacher: Renée Piernot

### Region Two: Chittenden County

**First Place, \$600**

**Lydia Sheeser**

Lydia wrote about Malala Yousafzai and her efforts to promote equal education for all.  
Edmunds Middle School, Burlington; Teacher: Richard Boyers

**Second Place, \$400**

**Georgia Wool**

Georgia wrote about William Kamkwamba, who, from scrap metal, created a windmill to generate his village's first electricity in Malawi.  
Edmunds Middle School, Burlington; Teacher: Jane Lavigne

**Third Place, \$200**

**Aya Goldstein**

Aya wrote about Sonita Alizadeh, Afghan refugee singer protesting child marriage and labor.  
Edmunds Middle School, Burlington; Teacher/Librarian: Carole Renca

**Region Three: Addison, Rutland, Bennington Counties**

**First Place, \$600**

**Ainsleigh Johnson**

Ainsleigh wrote about Emma Gonzalez and her advocacy for stricter gun legislation  
Middlebury Union Middle School, Middlebury; Teacher: Sara Nadeau

**Second Place, \$400**

**Gabrielle Lucci**

Gabrielle wrote about Malala Yousafzai's standing up for girls' education in spite of the Taliban.  
Christ the King School, Rutland; Teacher: Melissa Bledsoe

**Third Place, \$200**

**Maria Hogankamp**

Maria wrote about Emma Gonzalez and her efforts to secure stronger gun legislation.  
Rutland Town School, Rutland; Teacher: Peter Patterson

**Region Four: Orange, Windsor, Windham Counties**

**First Place, \$600**

**Avery Swett**

Avery wrote about Ricky Bernstein and Hands in Outreach, overcoming female illiteracy in Nepal.  
Upper Valley Waldorf School, Quechee; Teacher: Amy Fredland

**Second Place, \$400**

**Fern Patton**

Fern wrote about Isatou Ceesay who transforms waste into wealth and empowers women in The Gambia.  
Putney Central School, Putney; Teacher: Amanda Dixon

**Third Place, \$200**

**Anthem Philip**

Anthem wrote about Malala Yousafzai and her efforts to promote girls' rights to equal education.  
Upper Valley Waldorf School, Quechee; Teacher: Amy Fredland

**4 Honorable Mentions, \$100 each**

**Greta Kilburn**

Greta wrote about Sabra Davidson's Little Bellas that promotes girls' self-esteem through bike riding.  
Region Two, Edmunds Middle School, Burlington; Teacher: Kathleen Gallagher, Librarian: Carole Renca

**Olivia Campbell**

Olivia wrote about Dr. Christine Blasey Ford and her testimony against Supreme  
Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh concerning sexual assault.  
Region Three, Mt. Abraham Union High/Middle School, Bristol; Teacher: Emily Beattie

**Paige Samuelson**

Paige wrote about Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and the Green New Deal.  
Region Three: Maple Street School, Manchester Center; Teacher: Conor Welch

**Lily Welch**

Lily wrote about Maggie Doyne and the Kopila Valley Children's Home she created in Nepal.  
Region Four, Upper Valley Waldorf School, Quechee; Teacher: Amy Fredland