

FOR 2025 LEC ENTRIES

Dear Teachers, Librarians and Homeschool Educators:

Please find this year's Lincoln Essay Competition materials included, as well as a flyer which we hope you will post where all 8th graders can see it. Having administered this contest for over 18 years now, we have learned a few tips that we'd like to pass along that will help you guide your students so that they are well-positioned to participate.

- Please make sure that every student wishing to participate has a **complete packet**. It is to their benefit to read through all 10 pages including the application, FAQs & Tips, and The Judges Rubric. You may copy the enclosed pages for distribution. They are also available at: hildene.org/learning/lincoln_essay (where students can also find an organizational chart template created by a former winner).
- When they have completed the application form, please make sure that the writing is legible, that the student has included a correct USPS mailing address, and that the form has been signed by the student, the teacher and a parent or guardian. If you are unable to sign student application forms due to extenuating circumstances, please send an email to lec@hildene.org certifying each student's compliance.
- We accept submissions via email to the following address ONLY: lec@hildene.org.
- If mailing, we advise students send in their essays **at least** one week in advance of the February 12 deadline, in case delivery is hampered.
- Late submissions will **not** be accepted.

Thank you very much for encouraging your students to participate. These are interesting times for essay competitions. As I'm sure you know best, it is increasingly difficult to be certain that the work submitted is truly a student's own work, reflecting their own research and critical thinking. With this in mind, the student/teacher/parent pledges on the application form are more significant than ever. It is our hope that you can use this opportunity to underscore the importance of integrity and academic honesty, while helping students navigate to what extent using AI is permissible for research. Please see our guidelines in the FAQ section of the packet.

While it is always fun to win, the reality is that most students will not win a prize. We cannot emphasize enough that it is the experience of examining a tough issue and endeavoring to articulate a well thought-out and compelling response that is the most important aspect of this competition. Developing this skill will serve them well throughout their lives. Thank you, again, for stewarding them through the process.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via my email or phone.

Yours sincerely,



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This program can be used to satisfy Common Core State Standards and the C3 Framework for Social Studies.