

TOPIC 2023:

Encouraging civil civic discourse, especially around difficult subjects, is a key part of Hildene's mission. In this year's competition, students will consider the delicate topic of censorship. Across the United States, the number of book challenges (attempts to remove or restrict access to a book based on its content) has increased dramatically—despite the fact that schools and libraries employ specific policies and procedures for choosing materials to include in their collections and curricula. In 500 words or fewer, please respond to the following:

Choose a book, in consultation with a parent or guardian, from the Shortlist of Challenged Books* and read it, if you have not already. Imagine that there is a request to remove this book from your local public library, school library, or 8th-grade classroom and that you, as a student, have been asked to give your opinion about how the school or library should respond. First, identify at least one reason why someone might challenge this book. Second, state what action(s) you think the school or library should take in response to the challenge. Third, give two distinct, well-explained reasons why this is an appropriate response. Finally, describe what you think the potential long-term impacts of your recommendation would be if it were implemented.

**Find the Shortlist at: https://hildene.org/learning/lincoln_essay*

OPEN TO: 8th grade
students who are
residing in VERMONT.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT:

https://hildene.org/learning/lincoln_essay

Winners will receive certificates and cash prizes, as follows:

First Place Winners: \$500 each
Second Place Winners: \$400 each
Third Place Winners: \$300 each
Up to four Honorable Mentions: \$200 each

IMPORTANT DATES:

ESSAYS DUE: on or before FEBRUARY 12, 2023

AWARDS LUNCHEON: May 21, 2023

QUESTIONS?

Stephanie Moffett Hynds, Programming Director: 802.367.7960, stephanie@hildene.org

Your School Contact:
