

For the past fifteen years, Hildene has administered the Lincoln Essay Competition informed by our mission: *Values into Action*. Using Abraham Lincoln’s legacy as touchstone, Hildene seeks to inspire young people to tackle important issues, underscoring the responsibility each of us has to help make our world a better place. The competition is open to all eighth graders who study in the state of Vermont, whether through an institution or at home, or whose primary residence is in the state of Vermont. Essays will be judged on the student’s understanding of the subject, as well as by their ability to convey that understanding through good writing.

2022 PROMPT:

What gives YOU hope?

Identify a challenging issue facing humanity today, whether at the local, state, national, and/or global level.

Express why this issue matters to you.

Investigate a scientific, legislative, technological, or other type of solution that is currently being proposed or employed to address the issue.

Explain what it is and why it holds promise as part of the solution to the problem.

Inspiration:

“We can succeed only by concert. It is not ‘can any of us imagine better?’ but, ‘can we all do better?’ The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew.”
 - 1862 Second Annual Message to Congress, President Abraham Lincoln

In his speech to Congress, President Lincoln was rallying Americans to save the Union by supporting his plans on many initiatives—freeing those enslaved, being foremost among them. His impassioned plea to come together to make bold choices could as easily be asked of all people today. The purpose of this year’s prompt is to invite you to examine ways in which people are “rising to the occasion” today in response to any number of challenging issues.

The competition is regional. There will be a first, second, and third place winner from each of four regions. Occasionally there are ties. The judges may also select up to four essays for honorable mention from anywhere in the state. As always, essays remain anonymous throughout judging. Students should enter the competition according to the region in which their school is located. If the student is homeschooled or their designated school is across state lines, they should enter according to the region where they live in Vermont. Regions are comprised of counties:

- Region One: Grand Isle, Franklin, Orleans, Essex, Lamoille, Caledonia, Washington
- Region Two: Chittenden
- Region Three: Addison, Rutland, Bennington
- Region Four: Orange, Windsor, Windham

Winners will receive certificates and cash prizes, as follows:

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

Essay requirements:**Essays must:**

- be written in English
- have a title (not included as part of the word count)
- not exceed 500 words, be typewritten, and presented on one side of one page
- respond to all parts of the prompt
- include **endnotes and bibliography on side two and on following sheets if necessary (see FAQs & TIPS)**
- be authored and edited by the student (see FAQs & TIPS)
- **not** have entrant's name or any other identifier of applicant or applicant's school on essay or within the text of the essay (this assures that the judging process remains anonymous)

Awards Luncheon: Each winner will be invited to an awards luncheon, along with their parents, teacher and principal as our guests. We expect **all winners/honorees to attend the luncheon**. All first-place essays will be read aloud, preferably by the entrant (although they may choose a reader other than themselves). The celebration will be at Hildene on **Sunday, May 15, 2022**. In the event that the luncheon is cancelled due to the COVID pandemic or other unforeseen circumstances, we will choose an alternate platform on which to celebrate winners.

Deadline for submissions: Entries are complete if they include: **1) application form** and **2) essay**. All essays and application forms must arrive at Hildene by **4pm on Saturday, February 12, 2022**, in one of three ways:

- **Mail** (*if you plan to mail, PLEASE give ample time for your entry to arrive. Late entries will not be accepted*):
Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home
ATTN: Lincoln Essay Competition
PO Box 377
Manchester, VT 05254
- **Email:** email lec@hildene.org with two attachments. The applications must be named "firstname_lastname_LEC_application" and essays "Hildene_LEC_Essay"
- **Hand-delivered** (1005 Hildene Road, Manchester, VT, 05254). Hildene is currently open 10:00am to 4:30pm Thursday - Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday).

PLEASE NOTE: Faxed, and late entries will **not** be accepted.

Notification: All winners will be notified by April 11, 2022. Winners are also announced on Hildene's website by 4pm, April 11, 2022. Non-winners will be notified thereafter via mail (*be sure your address is legible and USPS-acceptable).

Disclaimers: Hildene reserves the right to publish winning essays, unaltered (with the exception of formatting), on any media. Authors will not be compensated.

***ENTRANTS are URGED to REVIEW the entire paper packet provided to your institution, or consult each web link, before submitting entry. Documents include:**

- FAQs & TIPS
- Judges' Assessment Rubric

WHERE TO FIND INFO: ALL materials are either included in the paper mailing received by applicant's institution, or may be found on Hildene's website: https://hildene.org/learning/lincoln_essay

Questions: Contact Stephanie Moffett-Hynds at stephanie@hildene.org or 802.367.7960.

APPLICATION FORM - PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Applicant's Name: _____ Region: One ____ Two ____ Three ____ Four ____

Date of Birth: _____ Current Grade: _____ Home Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Home **USPS Mailing Address** Street PO Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Are you submitting this essay as a Home Study student?: Yes ____ No ____

Name of School: _____

School Telephone Number: _____

School **USPS Mailing Address** Street PO Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Teacher's Telephone Number: _____ Extension: _____

Principal's Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Essay Question, 2022:

What gives YOU hope? Identify a challenging issue facing humanity today, whether at the local, state, national, and/or global level. Express why this issue matters to you. Investigate a scientific, legislative, technological, or other type of solution that is currently being proposed or employed to address the issue. Explain what it is and why it holds promise as part of the solution to the problem.

Student Pledge: By signing below, I certify that I live or go to school in Vermont and that the submitted essay is my own work. I authorize Hildene to use my work in all future related events and publications without compensation and I understand that if I am a winner, I must attend the luncheon in order to receive my prize, at which time my essay will be read aloud. **In the event that the luncheon is cancelled due to the COVID pandemic, or other unforeseen circumstance, students may be asked to video record the reading of their essay, and recordings will be published on Hildene's YouTube channel.* **I have also consulted the checklist on the back of this form.**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print your name: _____

Teacher/Advisor Pledge: I certify that I have read all the contents of the competition packet, that the essay is the student's original work and that it meets all the requirements of Hildene's Lincoln Essay Competition. **Teachers/Advisors - if you are unable to sign student forms due to COVID restrictions, please send an email to lec@hildene.org certifying each student's compliance.*

Teacher's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print your name: _____ Is this your first time participating? _____

Parent/Guardian Pledge: I certify that I have read all the contents of the competition packet, that the essay is the student's original work and that it meets all the requirements of Hildene's Lincoln Essay Competition.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print your name: _____ Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Submission Deadline: Friday, February 12, 2022. Essay and application form must arrive at Hildene by **4:00pm**. Please note: Faxed, or late entries will not be accepted. Please be sure the address used for applicant on this application form is that used for U.S. mail delivery.

CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS

Complete this checklist before submitting your essay and application form:

- ___ I read the entire application packet.
- ___ I identified a challenging issue facing humanity today.
- ___ I expressed why this issue matters to me.
- ___ I investigated a solution to address the issue and explained what it is.
- ___ I explained why it holds promise as part of the solution to the problem.
- ___ I checked my essay using the Judges' Assessment Rubric to make sure I have satisfied all the requirements for writing a strong essay.
- ___ I typed my essay (500 words or fewer) on **one** side of a page **only**, included a **title**, and put all citations on the **reverse side**.
- ___ I made sure **not** to include my name on or in the essay, nor did I include the name of my school.
- ___ For mailed entries: I am mailing it well in advance of the deadline.
- ___ For emailed entries: I am submitting via email to: lec@hildene.org. I will send one email with two attachments: anonymous essay titled "Hildene_LEC_Essay," and completed application form titled "firstname_lastname_LEC_application"

What is Hildene's hope for participants?

While it is always fun to win, the reality is that not everyone will win a prize. We cannot emphasize enough that it is the process of examining a tough issue and endeavoring to articulate a well thought-out and compelling response to it that is the most important aspect of this competition. We hope you'll nurture a sense of pride in developing this skill which will surely be useful throughout your lives. Whether you win an award or not, this competition is very challenging and you are to be commended for making your best effort to offer a genuine response. All participants will receive a letter of acknowledgement, along with guest passes to Hildene. Do plan a visit!