

ILLINOIS SOCIETY WAR OF 1812
CHARLES SCHWEIZER ESSAY CONTEST

2011-2012 RULES

1. This contest is open to all students who are United States citizens or legal aliens. Contestants shall be attending public, parochial, or private high schools (including accredited home schools). Contestants shall be aged 14 - 22 and in any grade of study during the contest year. The contest is conducted by the state society. The contest must be entered through the state chairman. Only one entry per student is permitted per contest year. The first place state winner is prohibited from participating in following years' contests.

2. The contest is for an original researched and proven topic written in English. The topic of the essay shall deal with: an event(s) associated with the War of 1812. Students must source at least five (5) references with the minimum of three being published book sources to allow for verification of sources if necessary. References from Encyclopedias or Internet sites will be accepted, but are not considered as part of the three published book sources. If there are no book sources (i.e. all are from encyclopedias or internet sources) the essay will be disqualified. All essays are graded by a committee working with the committee chair.

3. The essay must have four parts: A) title page, B) essay pages, C) bibliography (works cited), and D) contestant's biography. The title page, bibliography and contestant's biography must be listed on separate pages and no reference to the contestant's name or information can be part of the Essay pages or Bibliography. Please follow these rules exactly. Essays that do not conform to the rules may be immediately disqualified.
 - A. The title page must include the title of the essay, contestant's name, address, telephone number, and email address (if available). In addition, the title page must include the name, address, and telephone number of the high school or college in which the contestant is enrolled, and the contestant's grade level.

 - B. The essay must have a minimum of 800 words and not exceed 1,200 words (excluding title page, footnotes, bibliography page, and biography page). (Word counts based on a word processor are acceptable). The First page of the Essay must include the title of the essay. (No contestant information must appear on these pages as they are separated and distributed to the judges for grading to prevent possible grading bias.) The essay must be typed double-spaced on white bond paper. No bindings or special covers are needed. Graphics are not permitted. An original copy of the essay must be submitted. Poor quality copies will not be accepted. Plagiarism will be grounds for immediate disqualification.

 - C. The essay and bibliography must be documented in accordance with the Modern Language Association publication, MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (see www.mla.org) or Kate L. Turabian's publication, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (see www.bridgew.edu/Library/turabian.cfm).

D. The contestant's biography is limited to one page. Topics to be included in the biography are academic awards and achievements, school activities, community activities, and plans for college or in case of college students, their plans after college.

4. Entries must be submitted to the State by the deadline of May 1, 2012. The students must send their essay to the state chairman. Award will be presented at the October annual Illinois Society War of 1812 meeting.

NOTE:

The Illinois Society War of 1812 encourages the electronic submission of the essay, however in these cases please confirm with the chairman on how this may be done such as on a floppy disk, CD, or as an attachment to an email message and what format the file should be in such as a Microsoft Word Document (.doc.), Rich Text Format (.rtf), or Portable Document Format (.pdf).

5. Essays which meet the criteria in Rules 1-3 above will be accepted and judged equally on the following criteria:

- A. Historical accuracy
- B. Clarity of thought
- C. Organization and proven topic
- D. Grammar and spelling
- E. Documentation

6. The winning essay participant will be awarded \$500 and the Second place winner \$200 and the essays will be submitted for publication in the Illinois Society War of 1812 newsletter "The Messenger" and on the Illinois Society War of 1812 web page under the Schweizer Essay Contest. Winning essay participants must supply a social security number or alien identification/green card number in order to receive their award.

7. Participants in this contest agree that the interpretation of rules and decisions of the Illinois Society War of 1812 and its judges must govern without reservation.

Questions regarding specific rules may be directed to the State Chairman:

Mr. Eric Reelitz

1439 Sunrise Place

Greenville IL 62246

Email: gfjogger@aol.com

8. For information on the Illinois Society War of 1812 non-profit organization you may contact

Mr. Jim DeGross

6 Ridgefield Drive

Troy, IL 62294

Email: jimdegross@charter.net

Come see us on the web at illinois1812warsociety.org or facebook/Illinois Society War of 1812