

National Sojourners 2024-2025 Essay Contest

THIS “*AUTHORIZED COVER SHEET*” MUST BE *COMPLETELY* FILLED OUT FOR THE *ESSAY TO BE A WINNER!!!*

Prizes

1 st Place	\$3000 Check and National Sojourners Plaque
2 nd Place	\$2000 Check and National Sojourners Plaque
3 rd Place	\$1000 Check and National Sojourners Plaque

Theme – “Preamble” of the Declaration of Independence

Prompt: Describe how the “Preamble” of the Declaration of Independence is still relevant today. (Text on reverse side)

Rules & Essay Details: The Essay contest is open to all students currently in 9th thru 12th grades, including home schooled students. **Submit essay to your local National Sojourners Chapter by Dec. 15, 2024**, using this “Authorized Cover Sheet,” filled out clearly and completely. **Each Chapter submits a maximum of 3 essays to National Sojourners Headquarters, RECEIVED AT NATIONAL BY JANUARY 15, 2025.**

Mandatory - Essay must satisfy the following requirements to be winners - Mandatory
Must be typed, double spaced, single sided, 1” margins, Times New Roman 12-point font. Recommend following the APA Style and Grammar Guidelines (<https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines>)
Must be 500 - 750 words long and include word count. (Citations and bibliography are not included in word count.)
Must include Bibliography on a separate page, with at least five (5) legitimate references listing each one by author, title of article, volume used, pages and paragraphs, copyright date, publishing company.
Must cite & footnote facts/quotations. (Citations and bibliography are not included in word count.)
Must include student’s name on first page of essay and on bibliography page for tracking purposes.
MUST BE TURNED INTO YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL SOJOURNERS CHAPTER BEFORE DECEMBER 15, 2024.

Student Information – Must Be Filled Out Completely and Printed Neatly

First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name: _____
[Please use “nmi” for “no middle initial”]

Home Telephone Number [required for contact]: _____ **Word Count - Mandatory:** _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Home Address Continued: _____ Email: _____

Your School’s Name: _____ **Your Grade [9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th]:** _____

Chapter Information – Must Be Filled Out Completely

Chapter Representatives: Fill Chapter Information out **completely** and **neatly** before copying form for local distribution. **Please make sure the MANDATORY guidelines outlined above are followed.**

National Sojourners Chapter Name and Number: _____

Chapter Point of Contact Name: _____

Chapter Point of Contact Home Phone Number [required for contact]: _____

Chapter Point of Contact Mailing Address: _____

Chapter Point of Contact Address Continued: _____

“Preamble” of the Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/sites/default/files/inline-pdfs/Preamble%20to%20The%20Declaration%20of%20Independence.pdf>