

## ILLINOIS SOCIETY WAR OF 1812

### CHARLES SCHWEIZER HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

#### 2025 RULES

1. This contest is open to all students who are United States citizens. Contestants shall be attending public, parochial, or private high schools (including accredited home schools) and shall be in any grade of study during the contest year and attending a school in Illinois. The contest is conducted by the state society and must be entered through the state chairman. Only one entry per student is permitted per contest year. The 1<sup>st</sup> place state winner is prohibited from participating in the 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 chairperson.
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 **WILL** 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 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 is **ALLOWED** to appear on **ESSAY** or **BIBLIOGRAPHY** 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](http://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](http://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 and community activities, and plans for college.

4. Entries must be submitted to and received by the State Chairperson by the deadline of May 31, 2025. The students MUST send their essay to the state chairperson. The Awards 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 as an attachment to an email message or postal mail. The file format shall be in Microsoft Word Document (.doc.) 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, the second place winner \$300 and the third place winner \$100. 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 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 and the essays become the property of the Illinois Society War of 1812.

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

Mr. Eric Reelitz  
1439 Sunrise Place  
Greenville IL 62246  
Email: [gfjogger@aol.com](mailto:gfjogger@aol.com)

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

Mr. Robert Ridenour  
4814 Loop Road  
Dorsey, IL 62021  
Email: [rwridenour566@gmail.com](mailto:rwridenour566@gmail.com)

Come see us on the web at [illinois1812warsociety.org](http://illinois1812warsociety.org) or Facebook/Illinois Society War of 1812