

MEMORANDUM

TO: 7th & 8th Grade Students in Jackson Area & their Teachers
FROM: Capital Area Bar Association, Committee on Law-Related Education
DATE: January 17, 2019
RE: Spring 2019 Essay Contest

Each year, the Capital Area Bar Association sponsors an essay contest for 7th and 8th grade students in the Jackson area. The purpose of the essay contest is to encourage students to think about the role of law in our society. The theme of this year's essay focuses on the freedom of speech. The essay topic is as follows:

Should high school students have the protection of the First Amendment (free speech) to kneel during the playing/singing of the National Anthem during school events? Why or why not?

The following rules will apply:

1. Essays must be typed and consist of **500 words or less**.
2. Essays will be judged on the following criteria: (1) proper grammar and spelling; (2) organized presentation of ideas; and (3) clear statements of position.
3. Plagiarized essays will not be considered. External sources are not required, but should be cited (given credit) according to school's general rules.
4. All essays must be submitted with a completed cover sheet and postmarked by Friday, **April 5, 2019**.
5. Do not put your name on your essay. Your name and school should only appear on your cover sheet.
6. Essays and cover sheets should be mailed to:

CAPITAL AREA BAR ASSOCIATION
LAW RELATED EDUCATION COMMITTEE
c/o Blythe Lollar
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC
One Eastover Center
100 Vision Drive, Suite 400
Jackson, Mississippi 39211

Prizes:

A winner will be selected from each school that participates in the contest and will receive a \$100 prize. **The teacher with the most students to submit essays in the contest will win - \$100 gift card.** At a school's request, the Law Related Education Committee will coordinate with teachers to present these awards at each school's Awards Day program. Additionally, the three winning authors and the teacher with the highest participation will be recognized at a Capital Area Bar Association Luncheon in June 2019. We look forward to reading your thoughtful essays!

**CAPITAL AREA BAR ASSOCIATION
COVER SHEET FOR SPRING 2019 ESSAY**

Should high school students have the protection of the First Amendment (free speech) to kneel during the playing/singing of the National Anthem during school events? Why or why not?

A copy of this cover sheet must accompany each essay submitted. This information is to appear ONLY on this cover sheet. Essays become the property of the Capital Area Bar Association and will not be returned.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Principal: _____

Teacher: _____

School Phone Number: _____

Number of Words: _____