

Please Remember:

- ☞ Students may submit an entry in *one* of three categories: Written Word, Performance, or Visual Art.
- ☞ In order for a student to be eligible for prizes, her or his submission must be accompanied by a written explanation and a contest Entry Form.
- ☞ The student's name and school should appear on the entry, itself, as well as on the written explanation of the entry.
- ☞ Students should retain a copy of their written work.
- ☞ Performance art must be submitted on DVD (in .mov format) or on CD (in mp3 format). The Computer Lab Managers will provide any necessary assistance.
- ☞ Sculptures must be no larger than 17x11x9 inches.
- ☞ Students must submit their Entry Forms, explanations, and the entries, themselves, to their Social Studies teachers no later than Wednesday, December 9th.
- ☞ Students might be asked to present a portion of their work during the awards ceremony.
- ☞ Students, teachers, or parents: Please contact the League of Women Voters of Evanston if you have any questions or need help with a project. We have many volunteers ready to assist. Call 847-866-7844 or send an e-mail message to ConContest@lwve.org.



Preamble (Introduction) to the Constitution of the United States of America

*We the People of the United States,
in Order to form a more perfect Union,
establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility,
provide for the common defence,
promote the general Welfare,
and secure the Blessings of Liberty
to ourselves and our Posterity,
do ordain and establish this Constitution
for the United States of America.*

The Main Sections – “Articles” – of the Constitution

- Article I:** The Legislative Branch: the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Organization of Congress, Powers Granted to Congress, Powers Forbidden to Congress, Powers Forbidden to the States
- Article II:** The Executive Branch
- Article III:** The Judicial Branch
- Article IV:** Relation of the States to Each Other; Federal-State Relations
- Article V:** Amending the Constitution
- Article VI:** National Debts, Supremacy of the National Government
- Article VII:** Ratifying the Constitution

Our Constitution has been amended 27 times. The first ten Amendments, ratified effective as of December 15, 1791, are referred to as *The Bill of Rights*.



League of Women Voters of Evanston®

2009 U. S. Constitution Contest:

Open to All School District 65 Seventh-Graders

your RIGHTS, your REASONS

Your THOUGHTS:

2009 Constitution Contest Question

Members of the U. S. Supreme Court make decisions that require interpreting the United States Constitution. For example, citizens have the First Amendment right to freedom of speech, but they are not allowed to use that freedom to create a panic in an enclosed space.

Which amendment do *you* think presents the greatest challenge in balancing the rights of competing interests?

Your RESPONSE:

Words • Performance • Artwork

Your REWARD:

1st Place: \$500 savings bond

2nd Place: \$250 savings bond

3rd Place: \$100 savings bond

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF EVANSTON®

2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201

847-866-7844 • www.lwve.org

E-Mail Address for Contest: ConContest@lwve.org

The Contest, in Brief

1. District 65 Seventh-Grade students are asked to –

A. Consider this question:

Members of the U. S. Supreme Court make decisions that require interpreting the United States Constitution. For example, citizens have the First Amendment right to freedom of speech, but they are not allowed to use that freedom to create a panic in an enclosed space.

Which amendment do *you* think presents the greatest challenge in balancing the rights of competing interests?

B. Respond to the questions by submitting entries consisting of the written word, performance art, or visual art. Details are provided at the right.

2. Each participating student should give a completed entry form, a written description of the entry, and the entry itself to her or his Social Studies teacher. Representatives of the League of Women Voters of Evanston will collect the entries and associated forms and descriptions from the schools.
3. Volunteers from the Evanston community will judge submissions on the basis of their relevance to the subject and on students' effort, persuasiveness, and attention to detail.
4. Submissions will be displayed at the Joseph E. Hill Education Center, 1500 McDaniel Avenue, Evanston, on the day of the Exposition and Awards Ceremony, Saturday, January 9, 2010. The public is encouraged to attend.

Dates to Note

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009

All entries, entry descriptions, and completed entry forms must be given to the student's Social Studies teacher.

December 14-17, 2009

Volunteer judges evaluate entries.

Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010

2 p. m. – 4 p. m. Public exhibition of entries.

3 p. m. – 4 p. m. Presentation of awards.

Contest Details for Students, Teachers, and Parents

1. All students in the Seventh Grade in District 65 schools are eligible and encouraged to participate in this contest.
2. Only one entry per student will be considered. If a student participates in a group project, she or he may not also submit an individual entry.
3. If students work together on an entry, all students who participated must be identified. Any prizes awarded will be divided equally among all members of a group.
4. All work must be that of the student(s). Plagiarized materials will be disqualified.
5. When addressing the contest question, students should select one of the following three categories of expression:
 - **The Written Word.** A student may contribute a typed essay, short story, play, or poem of 500-700 words (2-4 double-spaced pages; poems may be shorter).
 - **Performance Art.** A student might present a play, interpretive dance, or rap song, for example. Each performance entry must be no longer than 5 minutes in duration and must be submitted on a DVD in .mov format or on a CD in mp3 format.
 - **Visual Art.** A student might submit a painting, drawing, photograph, sculpture, or other type of art work. Each sculpture must be no larger than 17x11x9 inches. Each canvas or poster must be no larger than 24x22 inches.
6. Participants must submit the following items to their Social Studies teachers, *no later than Wednesday, December 9th*:
 - A completed contest Entry Form. (Social Studies teachers will provide entry forms.)
 - A typed explanation/description of the entry, in 100-500 words. Be sure to identify the Amendment that the entry addresses.
 - The entry, itself, with the contest Entry Form attached. The student's name should be marked on the entry.

Any participant who does not submit a completed Entry Form and a typed explanation of her or his entry will not be eligible for awards.

7. Judging of all entries will take place at the Joseph E. Hill Education Center, 1500 McDaniel Avenue, Evanston.
8. For further information, or for assistance in preparing a project, please feel free to contact the LWVE:
 - By e-mail, at ConContest@lwve.org.
 - By telephone, at the League of Women Voters of Evanston office, 847-866-7844. Please leave a message; we *will* return your call.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF EVANSTON®**

2009 Constitution Contest

Your RIGHTS, your REASONS

Exposition: 2 p. m. to 4 p. m.

Awards Ceremony: 3 p. m.

Saturday, January 9, 2010

**Joseph E. Hill Education Center
1500 McDaniel Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201**

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