

Essay Purpose, Central Question, Rules, and Timeline:

Purpose: To encourage civic and character growth, as well as reward academic excellence, relatable to genuine, current concerns of American citizens.

Central Question: Given the national debt, federal spending, and taxes (such as income, Social Security, Medicare, and gasoline) how should the states propose a Federal Balanced Budget within the legal framework of the United States Constitution?

Essay Rules:

1. The essay submission must be from a current high school junior or senior (11th or 12th Grade) in Colorado. This may include any student in a public, private, charter, or homeschool environment.

2. The essay must address the central question stated above.

3. Essay must be typed via Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat pdf, using Times New Roman/12 font.

4. Essay length is between 1000 to 1250 words (approximately 4 to 5 pages, double-spaced).

5. As an original work, references should be cited and listed on the last page. Contestants can list by either APA, MLA, or Grammarly, etc. formats. The key is that sources are cited and listed, such as the United States Constitution.

6. For the judging rubric, go to the “Essay Competition Rubric” link on the menu.

7. Scholarship winners may apply the award of \$250 to the individual needs of the student (i.e. tuition, books, fees, laboratory, parking, living expenses, etc).

Essay Timeline

4. Essays submitted by March 20th, 2024, to Dr. Duray at chuck.duray@jamesirwin.org .