

voice of democracy

2016-2017 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY COMPETITION

MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

SUBMIT WITH CD, COPY OF SPEECH & *STUDENT PHOTO*****

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

(_____) _____
Home Phone

E-mail

Date of Birth (day, month, year) Grade in School

Name of teacher

School Name, City, State

TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT AND STUDENT'S PARENT/GUARDIAN

First Name You'd Like on Your Badge

Jacket Size (XS,S, M, L, XL, XXL)

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

& Signature

Date

(_____) _____
Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's E-mail

2016-17 THEME

"My Responsibility to America"

THE RULES

Who can enter? The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or in an overseas U.S. military/civilian dependent school. Foreign exchange students, students over age 20 and previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners are ineligible. **What do I need to enter?** Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or – 5 seconds) essay on this year's theme onto a CD or flash drive. Label your CD or flash drive, neatly typed essay and a picture with your name and complete the entry form. Provide these four items to your school/group competition or your local VFW Post for judging. All recordings must be in your own voice (hearing or speech impaired students should contact the Voice of Democracy National Office at (816) 968-1117 for special instructions), without music, special effects or background sounds. Songs and poetry are not acceptable. You may not provide anything in the essay or recording that will identify you in any way. You may enter only one Voice of Democracy competition per year. **Where do I submit my entry?** To advance to the next level, all entries must be judged at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the local VFW Post competition. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the local VFW Post provided they have not competed at a school/class competition. VFW Post winners compete at the VFW District level. District winners compete at the VFW Department (state) level. Department winners receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete at the VFW National level. All winners must begin at the Post level. **What is the deadline for my entry?** **All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Nov. 1, 2016 It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location.** To identify a sponsoring Post in your area, Contact the Department MN VFW at 651-291-1757

WHAT ARE THE JUDGING CRITERIA?

Originality is worth 30 points: Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest

Content is worth 35 points: Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery is worth 35 Points: Speak in a clear and credible manner.

-OVER-

OFFICIAL RULES FOR STUDENTS ADVANCING TO NATIONAL LEVEL

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. from February 25 through March 1, 2017 as a guest of the VFW National Organization. I understand that state winners who do not attend as stated above will forfeit all rights to compete in the National Finals and will be replaced by their state's second place winner. In the event my CD is selected for entry into the 2016-2017 National Voice of Democracy Competition, I do hereby for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees; waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the several Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the VFW Voice of Democracy Competition and/or arising out of my travel to and during the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my tape, essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE RULES (ABOVE)

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have only entered the competition once. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant _____
Date

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW/AUXILIARY POST *Due to District By November 15, 2016*

I certify that this student is an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature _____
Post #

Ladies Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature

Post Address _____
City, State, Zip

No. of students participating _____ No. of winners advanced to District _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$ _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$ _____

Post Chairman: Be sure to include a recorded copy of the speech, typed copy of the speech and a *PICTURE**** of the student.***

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW/AUXILIARY DISTRICT *Due to Department By December 1, 2016*

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the 2016-2017 Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department finals.

District Chairman's Signature _____
Dist. # _____
Date District Winner will be Informed

Address _____
City, State, Zip

(_____) _____
Phone _____
E-mail

District Chairmen: Be sure that you have received a recorded copy of the speech, typed copy of the speech and a *PICTURE**** of the student.***

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the 2016-2017 Voice of Democracy Department Competition, is our sole entry into the National Judging and will attend the National Finals in Washington, D.C. The winner has been____ will be____ (check one) notified that they are the first place Department winner on January 21, 2017. Note: National Headquarters will contact your winner after this date to make travel arrangements for them to be in Washington, D.C.

Department Chairman's Signature

(_____) _____ (_____) _____
Daytime Phone Fax

E-mail _____