

Sweet Union Republican Women

Americanism Essay Contest

Americanism is the unwavering belief in the founding principles of the United States: **freedom, individual responsibility, limited government, the rule of law, free-market capitalism, strong national defense, and patriotism**. From a Republican perspective, Americanism is about preserving the values that make the United States exceptional—faith, family, hard work, personal liberty, and the Constitution as originally intended.

Americanism Essay Contest Parameters

Theme: “What Americanism Means to Me and Why It Matters Today”

Eligible Participants: 9-12 grade students and residents of Union County, NC.

Essay Guidelines:

Length: 500-750 words

Format: Typed, double-spaced, 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial)

Title at the top of the essay

Style: Persuasive or personal narrative backed by historical examples or current events.

Originality: All entries must be the student’s own work.

Judging Criteria:

1. Understanding of Americanism...30%
2. Clarity of Thought and Argument...25%
3. Patriotism and Personal Reflection...20%
4. Grammar, Spelling, and Mechanics...15%
5. Creativity and Impact...10%

Award: \$500, a Certificate and lunch with House Representative Mark Harris

Deadline for Submission: Friday, March 6, 2026

Submit Essays To: SURWhighschoolcontest2026@gmail.com

Subject Line: Americanism Essay Contest- (Student Name)

Optional Prompt Guidance

1. What does freedom mean to you? **2.** What are your responsibilities as an American citizen? **3.** How do faith, family, and community strengthen America? **4.** What does the American flag mean to you? **5.** Why are the Constitution and Bill of Rights still relevant? **6.** How can you and your peers ensure the future Liberty of Americans? **7.** What does it take to keep the American Republic Strong?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Grade Level: _____

Certification: I certify that the information included in this application is accurate, and the accompanying essay is solely my own original work.

Applicants Signature: _____ Date: _____

