



# American Ancestors<sup>®</sup>

A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

## 2025 American Ancestors Young Family Historians Essay Contest



The **2025 American Ancestors Young Family Historians Essay Contest** is open for students enrolled in grades 4–12 in public, private, parochial, and home schools across the nation and US territories.

We encourage teachers to use this essay contest as a class project. Our [Family History Curriculum](#) has everything you need to help students explore their roots, including inquiry-based lessons, teaching strategies, and editable student worksheets.

### Essay Question

Describe a challenge your ancestors faced. How did they overcome it?

### Prizes

#### Grades 4-6

- Winner (\$500)
- Semifinalist (\$250)

#### Grades 7-8

- Winner (\$500)
- Semifinalist (\$250)

#### Grades 9-12

- Winner (\$500)
- Semifinalist (\$250)

*Each winner and semifinalists will receive a one-year, student membership to American Ancestors.*

**Submission Deadline:**  
**April 1, 2025**

### Who is eligible?

Students currently enrolled in grades 4–12 in public, private, parochial, and home schools across the nation and US territories.

### Submission Guidelines

- Grades 4-6: 500 words
- Grades 7-8: 750 words
- Grades 9-12: 1,000 words

### Formatting

- Word counts are approximate
- Number all pages
- Double-spaced
- 12 pt Times New Roman
- 1-inch margins on all sides
- Submission file must be a PDF

Submit your entry at [AmericanAncestors.org/Essay-Contest-2025](https://AmericanAncestors.org/Essay-Contest-2025)