The American Heritage Scholarship Program seeks to increase our understanding of what it means to be an American. Unlike other nations, the essence of American nationality has little to do with our country of origin or the specifics of our religious faith. While the American spirit embraces such diversity, what unites us as a people is a shared set of principles and ideals which proclaim our freedoms and set forth our responsibilities.

**2018 SPEAKER**

Eric Grant  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice

**2018 ESSAY PROMPT**

The Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution states, “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

How should the “right to bear arms” be interpreted and enforced in 2018? In a well-crafted, logical essay, take a stance on this issue and provide references to primary and secondary resources in support of your opinion.

### TIMELINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of August 2nd</th>
<th>Application Packets electronically sent to all high schools (online <a href="http://www.stancoe.org/go/americanheritage">www.stancoe.org/go/americanheritage</a>)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 18th</td>
<td>Presentation 7 P.M. Beyer High School, Little Theater (1717 Sylvan Ave, Modesto, CA 95355)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of September 24th</td>
<td>Live Stream Version of Presentation available for viewing at <a href="http://www.stancoe.org/go/americanheritage">www.stancoe.org/go/americanheritage</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of October 17th</td>
<td>ESSAYS DUE to the Superintendent’s Office at the Stanislaus County Office of Education (Can be postmarked by 5pm on October 17th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 27th</td>
<td>Awards Ceremony (Top winners will be invited to attend) SCOE Boardroom (1100 H Street, Modesto – 2nd floor)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$10,000 in College Scholarships and Awards will be distributed to 19 winners (based on available funding)

**Additional Information:** Valerie Escobar- vescobar@stancoe.org (209) 238-1706

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**Co-sponsored by:**

The Modesto Bee

Stanislaus County Office of Education
2018 ESSAY CONTEST RULES

FAILURE TO FOLLOW ANY OF THE RULES BELOW WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION. PLEASE READ EACH ITEM CAREFULLY.

1. The American Heritage Essay Scholarship Competition is open to all 11th and 12th grade students attending any public, private, or home school in Stanislaus County.

2. All participants must attend the presentation or view the presentation online. The presentation will take place on September 18, 2018 at Beyer High School, Little Theater (1717 Sylvan Avenue, Modesto, CA 95355), beginning at 7:00 pm.

   Additionally, the presentation will be live streamed on September 18th at 7:00 pm and will be available online sometime during the week of Sept. 24th www.stancoe.org/go/americanheritage

3. Students must do their own work. Teachers may not provide feedback of any kind on individual essays.

4. Students must support their response to the essay prompt by citing a minimum of four valid sources within the body of the essay, one of which must be comments from the guest speaker (no printed encyclopedias, Wikipedia, or similar sources).

5. Students MUST underline the sources of the citations in their essay.

   EXAMPLE: Even volunteers seem to feel bitter about the idea, claiming that “it undercuts the very idea of volunteering” (Allen, 2010).

6. Essay and Works Cited MUST be in MLA format with bibliography attached to the essay. A sample Works Cited page has been included in this packet.

   FAILURE TO CITE SOURCES WITHIN ESSAY AND ATTACH A WORKS CITED PAGE WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.

7. Students must submit ONE copy of their essay. The essay must be either typewritten or word-processed. It must be double-spaced using one side of white paper (8-1/2 x 11 inches). Pages must be numbered consecutively. The Scholarship Essay cover sheet must be the first page.

8. The maximum number of words is 2,000. Type font must be 12 pt., black ink, Times New Roman font. Be sure to include word count in the space provided on the cover sheet.

9. The completed Scholarship Essay cover sheet form MUST be completed online (bit.ly/AHscholarship) and printed with signatures executed from both student and parent. This completed cover sheet must be paper clipped securely to the essay (Please do NOT staple). The student’s name must NOT appear anywhere on the essay itself, only on the cover sheet.

10. The program sponsors reserve the right to reprint entries. Entries will not be returned.

11. Entries can be delivered by U.S. mail or hand-delivered. All hand-delivered entries must be received at the Stanislaus County Office of Education (Superintendent’s Office – 2nd Floor), 1100 H Street, Modesto, CA 95354, no later than 5:00 P.M. on October 17, 2018. Entries U.S. mailed to the County Office must be postmarked by October 17, 2018.
**Essay Judging**
A distinguished group of local educators, writers, community leaders, and representatives from the legal community will judge the essays in a first round. The rubric is available for viewing [www.stancoe.org/go/americanheritage](http://www.stancoe.org/go/americanheritage). Finalist’s essays will be ranked by local volunteer, Superior Court Judges. Those who will be awarded scholarships will be notified by staff from the Stanislaus County Office of Education and invited to the Awards Ceremony.

**Scholarships and Awards** *(based on available funding)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notification of Winners**
Winners will be notified the week of November 19, 2018.

An awards ceremony will be held November 27, 2018 at the Stanislaus County Office of Education in the Board Room (second floor), 1100 H Street, Modesto, CA, at 6:30 P.M.

**Additional Information:**
Contact: Stanislaus County Office of Education
Valerie Escobar: vescobar@stancoe.org  (209) 238-1706

| TIMELINE |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Week of August 27th | Application Packets sent to all high schools |
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*(Can also be U.S. Mail postmarked by October 18th)* |
| November 27th | Awards Ceremony 6:30 P.M. *(Top 19 winners will be invited to attend)*  
SCOE Boardroom *(1100 H Street, Modesto – 2nd floor)* |

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**American Heritage 2018**

**ESSAY PROMPT**

*The Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution states, “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”*

How should the “right to bear arms” be interpreted and enforced in 2018? In a well-crafted, logical essay, take a stance on this issue and provide references to primary and secondary resources in support of your opinion.
**Documentation of Sources and a Sample Works Cited Page**

**MLA Format**

**Essay Formatting:**
- Use Times New Roman, in 12 point size font.
- Double space throughout paper, including the Works Cited page.
- Set margins to 1 inch at top, bottom, and both sides.
- Indent the first word of a paragraph by ½ inch or 5 spaces.
- Number all pages consecutively, including the works cited page.
- **DO NOT** use a title page. Center your title on the first page

**In-Text Citations:**
- References in your paper must clearly point to specific sources in your Works Cited page.
- Within parentheses, list the author’s name and the page number of specifically cited content.
- If you have two authors with the same last name, also include the author’s first initial.
- If you have several works by the same author, also include the title (abbreviate if long).
- If no author is listed, use the title (abbreviate if long).
- If using the title, remember to use correct punctuation: underline book titles, use quotation marks for journal articles, short stories, book chapters, etc.
- The author’s name can be referred to within the sentence. Example: O’Rourke and Rodrigues have argued this point (24-25).
- Or the author’s name can be referred to within the parenthetical reference. Example: Some scholars have argued this point (O’Rourke and Rodrigues 24-25).

**Works Cited Page:**
- Continue page numbering from the body of your essay.
- Center the title “Works Cited.”
- Alphabetize entries by the author’s last name.
- If no author, alphabetize by the title (ignore A, An, The).
- Use a hanging indent (second line of source is indented by one tab).
- Works Cited Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BASIC MODEL FOR BOOKS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author(s). <em>Title of Work</em>. City, State: Publisher, Date. Medium.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BASIC MODEL FOR MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author(s). “Title of Article.” Genre (where applicable). <em>Title of Publication</em>. Volume Issue Number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Publication: Page Number(s). <em>Database Name</em>. Web. Date of Access.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BASIC MODEL FOR INTERNET SOURCES:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author(s). “Title of Article” or “Section of Website (Genre if no title is available).” <em>Title of Website</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Posting or Last Update. Web. Date of Access (if different from Posting or Update). &lt;URL&gt;.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MARGINS & PAGINATION

Standard heading and pagination include the components listed below. MLA requires no additional title page, but individual instructors may have other requirements.

The following is an example of the first page of a manuscript.

Additional Resources:

- Refer to the Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University’s website: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/
- Utilize bibliographic management tools such as:
  - www.citationmachine.net
  - www.easybib.com
- The following websites provide guidelines on evaluating sources, misleading websites, and criteria for evaluation.
  - http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html
  - https://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/webeval.html
  - http://eduscapes.com/tap/topic32.htm