

**OFFICE OF THE MONMOUTH COUNTY CLERK  
CHRISTINE GIORDANO HANLON, ESQ.**



**19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial Essay Contest for  
Monmouth County Middle School Students (2019)**

**Background**

2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19th Amendment which granted women the right to vote. To commemorate this historic milestone, the Monmouth County Clerk’s Office is launching an essay contest for seventh and eighth grade students!

The First, Second, and Third Place winners will receive a prize and be honored by Monmouth County Clerk, Christine Giordano Hanlon, at an awards ceremony during the County Clerk’s 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Archives and History Day on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan. This year’s event theme is “New Jersey in Focus: Four Centuries of Monmouth County Women” and will feature panel discussions, lectures, and a history forum regarding the topic of the women’s suffrage movement.

The winning essays will also be showcased on the Monmouth County Clerk’s Office website and through Clerk Hanlon’s year-long recognition program of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial.

**Contest Rules and Eligibility**

<b>Topic &amp; Prompt:</b>	In the summer of 1848 at the Seneca Falls Convention, Elizabeth Cady Stanton read the “Declaration of Sentiments” which is widely seen as the launch of the women’s suffrage movement on the national stage. The 72-year-long battle for women’s voting rights evoked radical change and ultimately led to the passage and ratification of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920.
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	<p>During the nearly century-long movement, many male and female activists rose to prominence by raising public awareness and lobbying the government to grant women the right to vote.</p> <p>Prompt: In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, highlight an activist who had a connection to Monmouth County or New Jersey and explain the importance of his or her role to the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.</p>
<b>Participants:</b>	<p>The contest is open to all seventh and eighth grade students who reside in Monmouth County and/or attend a high school located in Monmouth County.</p>
<b>Length:</b>	<p>Only one (1) entry per student is permitted. The essay should be 400 to 600 words (excluding the cover page and works cited/bibliography) and must be typed using Times New Roman font at size 12 and double spaced.</p>
<b>Form:</b>	<p>Entrants must include a cover page for their essay which includes the following information:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Title of Essay:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Name:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Grade:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Middle School:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Teacher (if applicable):</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Home Address:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Parent/Guardian Name:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Parent/Guardian Phone Number:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Parent/Guardian Email Address:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Teacher's Email Address (if applicable):</i></p>

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<p><b>Bibliography/Citations:</b></p>	<p>The submitted essay must include a bibliography, works cited, or reference page for all references used. If internet sources are used, students must include the electronic address, a.k.a. link, used to access the electronic source.</p> <p>Please note that students are encouraged to use credible sources. Wikipedia is not considered a credible source.</p> <p>By submitting, the entrants agree that they are the sole copyright owner and writer of the original essay. Essays that are plagiarized or copy and pasted directly from a source, as well as essays without a bibliography, works cited, or reference page will be automatically disqualified.</p>
<p><b>Prizes, Judging &amp; Awards Ceremony:</b></p>	<p>The winners of this contest will receive the following prizes:</p> <p>First Place - \$150 Gift Card          Second Place - \$100 Gift Card          Third Place - \$75 Gift Card</p> <p>Each entry will be judged based on historical accuracy, remaining on topic, originality, organization, spelling, grammar, punctuation and works cited.</p> <p>The winners of the 19th Amendment Centennial Essay Contest will be honored by Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon at the County Clerk’s 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Archives and History Day on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at 10:45 a.m. at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters located at 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan, NJ 07726.</p>

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<b>Deadline &amp; Submission:</b>	<p>Entries will be accepted starting Monday, September 16, 2019 until the deadline of <b><u>Monday, October 7, 2019.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submissions may be sent via email to <a href="mailto:CountyClerk@co.monmouth.nj.us">CountyClerk@co.monmouth.nj.us</a> with the subject “2019 Student Essay Contest.” Within the email, please attach your essay in either Word Document or PDF form.</li> <li>• Submissions may also be mailed via flash drive or CD to Monmouth County Clerk’s Office, Attn: 2019 Student Essay Contest, 33 Mechanic Street, Freehold, NJ 07728.  Submissions via mail must be received by the Monmouth County Clerk’s Office by the deadline of Monday, October 7, 2019.</li> </ul> <p>By submitting an entry, the entrant (and the minor/entrant’s parent/legal guardians) grant the Monmouth County Clerk’s Office the rights to use and publish the essay and the name, grade, and middle school of the entrant, as well as any photographs from the award ceremony, in print, electronically, and/or digitally.</p> <p>Authorization is also granted to the Monmouth County Clerk’s Office to publish the same in public presentations and web content, which may include the Monmouth County Clerk’s email platform, websites, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr, and YouTube pages. The First, Second, and Third Place winning essays will be retained by the Monmouth County Clerk’s Office to publish on our websites and to be utilized in Clerk Hanlon’s yearlong recognition program of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial.</p>
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For questions regarding the 19th Amendment Centennial Essay Contest for Monmouth County Middle School Students, please contact the Monmouth County Clerk’s Office by emailing [CountyClerk@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:CountyClerk@co.monmouth.nj.us) or calling 732-431-7324, ext. 8735.