



CLOVIS
VETERANS
MEMORIAL DISTRICT

2023 Veterans Day Essay Contest Teacher's Guide- MIDDLE/INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

2023: “E Pluribus Unum: One Nation Under God”

The mission of the Clovis Veterans Memorial District (CVMD) is to provide a permanent living memorial honoring U.S. Military and Veterans; provide facilities and support programs to promote a legacy of service for preserving our community's and country's foundational ideals. Veterans Day is an opportunity to honor and give thanks to those who have served or are serving in the military, those who preserve the American way of life. This year's theme asks students to learn about the history of World War II and express why they feel it is important to remember D-Day.

The resources included in this Teacher's Guide can be used to talk to your class about the history of Veterans Day and introduce them to this year's theme: “E. Pluribus Unum: One Nation Under God.”

History of Veterans Day:

Veterans Day is held on November 11th, which began as a celebration of peace after World War I ended. It was originally called Armistice Day, to celebrate the truce signed between America and Germany during World War I. In 1954 the name was changed to Veterans Day, to honor all veterans.

Resources for teaching your students about Veterans Day:

[Veterans Day and the Meaning of Sacrifice](#)

[History of Veterans Day](#) (Video)

[The History of Veterans Day](#)

What is a national motto?

A national motto is often used to describe the intent or motivation of the country in a short phrase. They also are used to bring a sense of enthusiasm and patriotism to the people of a county.

What is the national motto of the United States of America?

In 1956, the first official motto was signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, “In God We Trust.” The phrase was first seen on U.S. coins in 1864. E. Pluribus Unum was adopted by an Act of Congress in 1782 as the motto of the Seal of the United States of America and has been used on paper money since 1795. E. Pluribus Unum means “Out of many, one.” It originated from the concept that out of the union of the original thirteen colonies emerged a single nation.

What is the Great Seal of the United States?

During Medieval times, important people added a seal made of wax to important letters and documents- it was the proof that that the documents were written by the person who signed it. Today, seals are still used on official documents. The Continental Congress began designing a seal as soon as the Declaration of Independence was signed, however it was not approved until 1782.

Starting a conversation...

Introduce Veterans Day to your students, and the reason why we celebrate our Veterans as heroes. Review what a national motto is, the importance of having a national motto with your students, what the Great Seal is, and the importance of being an informed citizen.

Discuss with the students

- What is a national motto?
- What does E. Pluribus Unum mean?
- What is the history of the national motto “In God We Trust”?
- What is a Great Seal and why is it important?
- Why is it important to have a national motto?
- Why is it important to be an informed and engaged citizen?

Resources

All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold

Hello, America by Martha Zschock

The Great Seal of the United States (American Symbols) by Norman Pearl

[Great Seal of the United States Facts: Lessons for Kids](#)

“ E. Pluribus Unum: In God We Trust” Prompt:

Create a 2-4 page essay around the theme “E. Pluribus Unum: In God We Trust.”

How to Enter:

Submit your essay with Entry Form to the Clovis Veterans Memorial District, 808 Fourth Street, Clovis, CA 93612. If you have any questions regarding the contest, please call the Clovis Veterans Memorial District at (559) 299-0471.

Related Common Core Standards:

7th Grade

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2b

Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.7

Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generate additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.

8th Grade

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.9

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis and research.