

STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

VETERANS DAY

“HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA”

In 2026, the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary, marking 250 years since the Declaration of Independence. Across those two and a half centuries, generations of Americans have served, sacrificed, built communities, and worked to preserve the freedoms and ideals of our nation. Veterans are an essential part of that history. This year's theme, “Happy Birthday America,” asks us to celebrate our country's past while reflecting on the service that has protected its freedoms and considering the responsibility each generation has in shaping America's future.

Intermediate school students are invited to write a 2-4 page essay around the theme “Happy Birthday America.”

In writing your essay, consider the following questions:

- What does “Happy Birthday America” mean to you and your generation?
- What people, events, symbols, or ideals would you highlight when celebrating 250 years of America?
- How have veterans helped protect the freedoms Americans celebrate?
- What can we learn from the service and sacrifice of veterans as America looks toward its next 250 years?
- How can students help carry forward the ideals of service, citizenship, and community for future generations?

REQUIREMENTS:

- 2-4 pages in length
- Typed or handwritten
- Attach Entry Form to front of your essay

HOW TO ENTER:

Submit your essay with Entry Form to:
Clovis Veterans Memorial District
808 Fourth Street
Clovis, CA 93612 • 559.299.0471

Awards will be given for:
Grand Prize, Overall &
7th & 8th Grade Level:
1st Place
2nd Place
3rd Place

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES
OCTOBER 1, 2026 4PM

WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED MONDAY, OCTOBER 19
THROUGH YOUR SCHOOL'S MAIN OFFICE.

TEACHERS:

Our provided curriculum guide can be used to talk to your class about the history of Veterans Day and introduce them to this year's theme: “Happy Birthday America.”

To view the curriculum guide, scan the QR Code below.



SCAN ME

