

# 2009 Law Day Essay Contest

## Rules and Information

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- SPONSORS:** Missouri National Education Association  
Missouri Bar Young Lawyers Section
- ESSAY PROMPT:** 2009 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. How does Lincoln's legacy of liberty affect our lives today? What can we learn from this American lawyer-president?
- ELIGIBILITY:** Students compete in three categories: grades 4-5, 6-8 and 9-12.
- CRITERIA:** Entries must be 700 words or less and typed or handwritten in ink. Attach completed cover sheet. The information requested should appear on the cover sheet only. **Do not include your name on the essay.** Entries will be judged on accuracy of information, clarity of expression, content and originality.
- DEADLINE:** Mail essays with attached cover sheets to Pat Miller, 7025 Oakwood Dr., Cedar Hill, MO. 63016. All entries must be postmarked by Feb. 6, 2009, or they will be disqualified.
- PRIZES:** Three winners will be determined in each grade level. First prize is a \$300 U.S. Savings Bond, second a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond and third a \$150 U.S. Savings Bond.
- Finalists advancing to state-level competition will be posted at [www.mnea.org](http://www.mnea.org) by March 31. Essays of students winning State-level awards will be posted at [www.mnea.org](http://www.mnea.org) by May 1. **State-level awards will be presented May 8 at a banquet in Jefferson City.** The Missouri Bar will notify winners of the award banquet details.
- CONTEST MATERIALS:** Visit [www.mnea.org/classkids/lawdayessay.htm](http://www.mnea.org/classkids/lawdayessay.htm).

Make copies of this form, the Law Day Essay Contest cover sheet and the flier to distribute to teachers in your school.

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**For more information, contact:**

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# Win up to \$300 in the annual Law Day Essay Contest

Local coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

## Essay Prompt:

2009 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.  
How does Lincoln's legacy of liberty affect our lives today?  
What can we learn from this American lawyer-president?

## Prizes:

\$300, \$200, and \$150 U.S. Savings Bonds

## Competition Categories:

Grades 4-5

Grades 6-8

Grades 9-12

For contest rules and entry information visit:

[www.mnea.org/classkids/lawdayessay.htm](http://www.mnea.org/classkids/lawdayessay.htm)

## Deadline:

Send essays to judging coordinator, Pat Miller, 7025 Oakwood Dr.,  
Cedar Hill, MO 63016

All entries must be postmarked by **Feb. 6, 2009**.

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The Law Day Essay Contest is sponsored by the Missouri National Education Association and the Missouri Bar Young Lawyers Section.

Please post this flier.





# 2009 Law Day Essay Contest Judging Criteria

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In applying the following criteria, the student's grade level should be taken into account. Assign a point value (1-10) to each of the following questions. One point indicates the lowest mark, 10 the highest.

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## Structure/Content

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the essay contain an introduction, a descriptive body and a conclusion?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the data correct and in a clear and logical and/or sequential order?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the essay exhibit good language skills: proper spelling, syntax and grammar?

## Creativity/Originality

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the essay have some sense of originality and creativity?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are the ideas good and well developed?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the essay creatively develop the theme?

### Essay Prompt:

2009 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. How does Lincoln's legacy of liberty affect our lives today? What can we learn from this American lawyer-president?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the essay contain the writer's personal views and comments?

## General Appearance

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the format neat?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Total points (80 points maximum)

