

AMERICA: THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

Freedom in Education

250TH ANNIVERSARY ART & WRITING COMPETITION

OFFICIAL RULES

1. Purpose and Applicability of Official Rules. These rules are intended to provide guidance to participants in the 250th Anniversary Art & Writing Competition hosted by Freedom in Education Corporation, a Georgia nonprofit corporation, (the “Competition”) regarding eligibility, submission requirements, judging criteria, prizes, deadlines, and other applicable terms and conditions (the “Official Rules”). The Competition is a skill-based educational recognition program and not a lottery, sweepstakes, or game of chance. No purchase or payment of any kind is necessary to enter or win. By entering the Competition, each participant and, if the participant has not reached the Age of Majority (as defined below), the participant’s parent or legal guardian, acknowledges that they have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these Official Rules and any related agreements incorporated herein by reference. In the event of any conflict between promotional materials and these Official Rules, these Official Rules shall control. For purposes of these Official Rules, “Age of Majority” means the legal age of majority in the participant’s state of domicile.

2. Eligibility and Participation. The Competition is a nationwide academic and creative initiative open to students in grades 3 through 12. Participation is open to students enrolled during 2026 calendar year in public, private, charter, homeschool, and micro-school educational settings in the United States of America. Each participant may submit one entry only, consisting of both an original artwork **and** a written reflection responding to the prompt:

“What does freedom mean to you?”

Only one entry per participant is permitted. Multiple submissions by the same participant are not allowed. Participants may participate individually and must complete their own work. The artwork and written reflection must not infringe any copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity, or other rights of any person or entity. In the event that Freedom in Education Corporation (hereinafter, the “Competition Administrator”) determines, in its sole reasonable discretion, that any participant has violated the Official Rules, submitted false or misleading information, or otherwise failed to comply with the terms of the Competition, the Competition Administrator reserves the right to disqualify such participant and to withhold, deny, revoke, or require the return of any prize, in whole or in part, to the extent permitted by law.

3. Submission Requirements. Competition entries made by minor participants must be submitted by the minor participant’s parent or legal guardian. Competition entries must be original and Not Previously Published (as defined herein) or entered into other competitions. For purposes of these Official Rules, “Not Previously Published” means that the artwork and written reflection have not been previously published, publicly displayed, distributed, posted online or otherwise made available to the general public in any medium. Each entry must include the following:

A. Original Artwork. The artwork must be entirely original and created solely by the participant. Acceptable formats are limited to:

- Painting
- Drawing
- Collage

Photography and mixed media outside of these categories are not permitted. Artwork must be submitted as a PDF file, ideally formatted to standard 8.5 x 11-inch dimensions. If the original artwork is larger, it may be photographed; however, the image must remain clear and legible when converted to PDF.

B. Written Reflection. Participants must also submit a written reflection of no more than 500 words responding to the prompt. The reflection must be submitted as a PDF file. Competition entries that fail to meet formatting, originality, or submission requirements may be disqualified.

4. 2026 Competition Timeline.

March 15 – Submissions Open

Memorial Day (May 25) – Submission Deadline (earlier if 1,500-entry cap is reached)

June – Selection Committee Review

July 4 – Winners Announced

Late 2026 – Commemorative Book Publication

5. Submission Process. Competition entries must be submitted through the official online competition portal. Participants may upload up to two PDF files—one containing the artwork and one containing the written reflection. Once an entry is submitted, it is considered final and may not be edited, replaced, or revised. Participants are responsible for ensuring that all uploaded files are complete, legible, and properly formatted.

6. Entry Cap. The Competition will accept a maximum of 1,500 entries nationwide. Once this limit is reached, submissions will close automatically, even if the published deadline has not yet passed. No additional entries will be accepted after the cap is reached.

7. Judging and Evaluation. Competition entries will be evaluated solely on merit by an independent panel of judges selected by the Competition Administrator and organized by grade division. All judging decisions are final and not subject to appeal. Judging criteria will include the following:

- (i) clarity and depth of response to the prompt
- (ii) originality of thought and perspective
- (iii) historical awareness and reflection
- (iv) craftsmanship in both art and writing
- (v) meaningful connection between the visual and written components

8. Prizes and Recognition. All awards and recognition will be granted solely on the basis of merit, as determined by the judging panel in accordance with the Official Rules. The Competition will have three (3) grade divisions as follows: grades 9-12, grades 6-8, and grades 3-5. The Competition Administrator will designate first place and second place winners within

each grade division, as determined in the judging panel's sole discretion. Cash prizes will be awarded within each grade division as follows:

Grades 9–12:

1st Prize – \$1,500

2nd Prize – \$750

Grades 6–8:

1st Prize – \$1,000

2nd Prize – \$500

Grades 3–5:

1st Prize – \$500

2nd Prize – \$250

Winners will be notified using the contact information provided at the time of submission, including by email and/or telephone to the parent or legal guardian of a minor participant. It is the responsibility of the participant, or if the participant has not reached the Age of Majority, the participant's parent or legal guardian, to ensure that all contact information remains accurate and current. The Competition Administrator shall not be responsible for failed, delayed, or misdirected notifications resulting from incorrect, incomplete, or outdated contact information. All prizes are subject to applicable tax reporting and legal requirements. Each winner, or if the winner is a minor, the winner's parent or legal guardian must complete the Prize Acceptance and Tax Acknowledgment Agreement provided by the Competition Administrator upon acceptance of the applicable prize.

9. Publication. The top 250 entries nationwide will be professionally curated and published in a commemorative coffee-table book celebrating America's 250th anniversary, with publication anticipated in late 2026. Copies of said coffee-table book may be sold by the Competition Administrator in furtherance of its tax exempt purposes.

10. Teacher and Classroom Incentives. Educators whose students receive awards or whose classrooms achieve 75% or greater participation may be eligible for recognition and incentives, including patriotic and civic-themed book bundles, classroom resources, and special acknowledgment. Contact info@freedomined.org for more information.

11. Consent Requirements and Legal Documents. Each participant, or if the participant has not reached the Age of Majority, the participant's parent or legal guardian, must complete the Consent, Release, and License Agreement, which is required before Competition submissions are made.

Each participant, or if the participant has not reached the Age of Majority, the participant's parent or legal guardian, is strongly encouraged to carefully read and fully understand all required Competition related rules and agreements prior to execution. If desired, each participant, or if the participant has not reached the Age of Majority, the participant's parent or legal guardian, may consult with independent legal counsel before signing any such document.