

Indiana Society, Sons of the American Revolution



Knight Essay Contest Requirements Checklist

The Indiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution receives many entries for the Knight Essay each year. Sadly, some of the best researched and written essays do not advance to the National Contest level. Some are even disqualified because they did not comply with requirements.

To prevent essays from being disqualified, and to help entrants achieve the best possible scoring, we have created this requirements checklist.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS		
<input type="checkbox"/>	The essay is submitted your closet SAR chapter by 31 DEC of the year.	Chapters can be located at: http://inssar.org/chapters/
<input type="checkbox"/>	The essay is an original researched project, proven and written in English.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The essay meets the topic requirement	An event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Must source at least five (5) references with the minimum of three being published book sources.	References from Encyclopedias or Internet sites will be accepted, but are not considered as part of the three published book sources. If there are no book sources (i.e. all are from encyclopedias or internet sources) the essay will be disqualified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The essay must have four parts: A) title page, B) essay pages, C) works cited, and D) contestant's biography.	The title page, bibliography and contestant's biography must be listed on separate pages and no reference to the contestant's name or information can be part of the Essay pages or Bibliography. Please follow these rules exactly. Essays that do not conform to the rules may be immediately disqualified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The essay and bibliography must be documented in accordance with the Modern Language Association publication.	Purdue University has a great website on MLA Format: http://bit.ly/1zm8UpH Although NOT required, a great tool to ensure papers meet the MLA standards for margins, fonts, documentation, etc. is PERRLA (www.PERRLA.com). A paid program that integrates with your word processor software ensuring your paper meets the current standards. This software is used by many college students to ensure they do not lose easy points on papers and allows them to focus on the content.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Graphics are not permitted.	

<input type="checkbox"/>	The Essay must be double-spaced and printed on white bond paper	
<input type="checkbox"/>	No bindings or special covers	
<input type="checkbox"/>	An original copy of the Essay must be submitted. Electronic submissions in Word or similar formats are preferred.	Poor quality copies are not accepted.

TITLE PAGE

<input type="checkbox"/>	Title of Essay	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contestant's Name	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contestant's Address	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contestant's Telephone Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contestant's Email Address	If available
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contestant's High School Name	If home school, say home school
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contestant's High School Address	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contestant's High School Telephone Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contestant's Grade Level	

ESSAY

<input type="checkbox"/>	Minimum 800 words, maximum 1,200 words	Excluded title page, works cited page, and biography page. Word counts based on a word processor are acceptable.
<input type="checkbox"/>	First page of Essay must include the title of the essay	
<input type="checkbox"/>	In-text citations meet the MLA Format. Footnotes are not used for citations in MLA.	See: http://bit.ly/1ExvT7T
<input type="checkbox"/>	No contestant information may appear on these pages	
<input type="checkbox"/>	If it is not common knowledge, it is cited	"how did the essay writer know this", "where did they get this information from" are often good tests.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plagiarism is ground for immediate disqualification	

WORKS CITED

<input type="checkbox"/>	Works Cited meeting MLA Format requirements	See: http://bit.ly/1ExvT7T
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any in-text citations are listed here	See: http://bit.ly/1ExvT7T
<input type="checkbox"/>	Words Cited is centered at the top of the page	

<input type="checkbox"/>	Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent	
<input type="checkbox"/>	List page numbers of sources efficiently, when needed.	

CONTESTANT'S BIOGRAPHY		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited to one page	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biography header is centered at top of page	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discussed any academic awards and achievements	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discussed any school activities	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discussed any community activities	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discussed any plans for college	