



Educational Programs

Christopher Columbus Essay Contest

The DAR sponsors this contest with the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) in honor of Christopher Columbus. Each academic year, an essay topic is chosen and contest instructions are made available to students.

- The contest is open to students in grades 9-12.
- Essays are judged for historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of materials, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation and neatness.
- Additional rules and guidelines can be found by contacting your local DAR chapter.

One winning essay from each participating chapter is submitted for judging on the state level. Each state winner is judged on the divisional level and the divisional winners move on to the national level, where the winner is announced. The national winner is invited to read their winning essay at the National Columbus Day celebration in Washington, D.C.

For additional contest information or guidelines, please contact your local DAR chapter or visit DAR.org.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization. DAR members are dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism in communities across the nation. All students are invited to participate and learn more about the educational programs the DAR offers. Educators, parents and students are encouraged to contact their local DAR chapters for more detailed information on these programs.

For more information please contact:

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www.dar.org

**NATIONAL SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ESSAY CONTEST

Topic for 2019–2020

Christopher Columbus' first expedition set off in August of 1492. He and his men explored the Caribbean for 5 months after arriving there in October. Imagine you are a sailor who accompanied Christopher Columbus on this voyage and now have returned to Spain. Describe your impression of Christopher Columbus and perception of the purpose of the expedition. Talk about your experiences on the voyage, detailing the places and people that you encountered, and what you see as the significance of the discoveries made.

GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS

5. **FORM:** Handwritten in black ink, typed or prepared on computer or word processor with non-script font no smaller than 12 pt. and no larger than 14 pt.
(ESSAY MUST BE STUDENT'S OWN WORK)

6. **NUMBER OF WORDS:**
 - 800–1,200 (All words count. Title page and bibliography excluded. Dates count as one word.)

7. **TITLE PAGE:** The following must be listed on the title page:
 - Title of Essay: "A Sailor's Experiences as Part of Christopher Columbus' First Expedition to the Americas"
 - Contestant's full name and address (includes street, rural route, or PO Box, city, state, zip code) Note: If the school's regulations prohibit providing the student's contact information, then contact information for the school may be substituted.
 - Contestant's phone number and area code
 - Contestant's e-mail address, if available
 - Name of contestant's school and grade level
 - Name of sponsoring DAR chapter
 - Number of words in essay

8. **JUDGING** will be based on:
 - Completeness of title page
 - Historical accuracy
 - Adherence to subject
 - Organization of material
 - Originality
 - Interest
 - Spelling and punctuation
 - Grammar
 - Bibliography

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ESSAY CONTEST 2019–2020
(This information is for chapter and school use)

TOPIC:	Topic for 2019–2020: Christopher Columbus’ first expedition set off in August of 1492. He and his men explored the Caribbean for 5 months after arriving there in October. Imagine you are a sailor who accompanied Christopher Columbus on this voyage and now have returned to Spain. Describe your impression of Christopher Columbus and perception of the purpose of the expedition. Talk about your experiences on the voyage, detailing the places and people that you encountered, and what you see as the significance of the discoveries made.
PARTICIPANTS:	All grade 9, 10, 11, and 12 students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are home schoolers, are eligible. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex or national origin. DO NOT SUBMIT A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH WITH ENTRY.
LENGTH:	Length is to be from 800–1,200 words.
FORM:	Essay must be typed, or prepared on a computer or word processor, using black type in a non-script font no smaller than 12 point or larger than 14 point. A limited vision student may use Braille, a tape recorder, or very large type. In this case, a written transcript must be included, as well as a teacher’s or physician’s letter attesting to the student’s special need. Please note that the entire essay must be the student’s original work. This includes all research, writing, and editing, which must be done by the student themselves and not by a parent, teacher, tutor, or other helper. Essay submissions not following these guidelines will be disqualified. Each essay must have a title page listing the following: Title of Essay: “A Sailor’s Experiences as Part of Christopher Columbus’ First Expedition to the Americas” Contestant’s full name and address. (street, rural route, PO Box, city, state, zip code) <u>Note:</u> If the school’s regulations prohibit student contact information, then school contact information may be substituted. Contestant’s phone number (with area code) and e-mail address, if available Name of contestant’s school and grade level Name of sponsoring DAR chapter Number of words in essay
BIBLIOGRAPHY:	Essay must have a bibliography listing all references utilized. Internet resources, if used, should be cited in similar format to that used for printed resources. Add the electronic address used to access the document as supplementary information. Any essay with information copied directly from sources without using quotes will be disqualified.
JUDGING AND AWARDS:	Judging will be based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of material, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation, neatness, and that this is the student’s own work.. Pictures, maps, drawings, graphics, and other such additions <i>will not</i> be considered in judging and should not be included. Judging at the chapter levels is by three judges, including at least one non-DAR judge. Judging at other levels is by three judges, all of whom are non-DAR members. CHAPTER: One essay is selected as chapter winner and forwarded to the state American History chair for the state competition. Certificates may be presented by sponsoring chapter, if desired. A Christopher Columbus Essay Certificate is available from The DAR Store. STATE: One essay is selected as the state winner and forwarded to the division vice chair of American History for division competition. The state winner receives a state winner certificate. DIVISION: One essay in each division is selected as the division winner and forwarded to the national vice chair in charge of the Christopher Columbus essay contest. National division winners will be recognized by NSDAR. NATIONAL: One essay is selected as the national winner. Second and third place winners are also selected. Judging at the national level is conducted by the National Italian American Foundation. The national winner will receive \$1,200 from the NIAF in addition to paid lodging and transportation to Washington, D.C. in October 2020 for the winner and one parent or guardian. The national winner must read the prize-winning essay at the Columbus Memorial, Washington, DC on Columbus Day (October 12, 2020). The second place national winner will receive \$500, and the third place national winner will receive \$300. (Chapters and states may present monetary awards and/or gifts in addition to the certificates if desired. DAR American History Essay Medals are not authorized for this contest.) <i>Note: All essays must first be submitted to a local chapter. Essays sent directly to the national chair or vice</i>
DEADLINE:	Chapter chairs should determine date for students/schools to forward essays to them to allow for judging to be completed prior to state deadline. <i>States with district level judging should set appropriate intermediate deadlines.</i> Date assigned: December 13th, 2019

NAME AND PHONE NUMBER OF CHAPTER CONTACT PERSON Lia Bronson 847-772-8554

NAME OF SPONSORING DAR CHAPTER Kenosha Chapter D.A.R

If additional information about the contest is needed, please contact the Office of the Historian General, NSDAR, at
1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006–5303 Phone: (202) 879–3256

2019 – 2020 Christopher Columbus Contest

“A Sailor’s Experiences as Part of Christopher Columbus’ First Expedition to the Americas”



Suggested Reading List

Compiled by the National Italian American Foundation

Dugard, Martin. *The Last Voyage of Columbus: Being the Epic Tale of the Great Captain's Fourth Expedition, including Accounts of Swordfight, Mutiny, Shipwreck, Gold, War, Hurricane, and Discovery*. New York: Little, Brown, 2005.

Fernández-Armesto, Felipe. *Columbus*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Morrison, Samuel Eliot. *Admiral of the Ocean Sea: A Life of Christopher Columbus. Vols. I and II*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1942.

Taviani, Paolo Emilio. *Columbus, the Great Adventure: His Life, His Times, and His Voyages*. New York: Orion Books, 1991.

Wilford, John Noble. *The Mysterious History of Columbus: An Exploration of the Man, the Myth, the Legacy*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.

Additional Reading List – Christopher Columbus Compiled by the American History Committee, NSDAR

Doak, Robin S. *Christopher Columbus: Explorer of the New World*. Minneapolis, MN: Compass Point, 1963.

Dor-Ner, Zvi, and William Scheller. *Columbus and the Age of Discovery*. Slippery Rock, PA: Slippery Rock U, 1991.

Dyson, John, Peter Christopher, and Coín Cuenca Luis Miguel. *Columbus—for Gold, God, and Glory*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1991.

Phillips, William D., and Carla Rahn Phillips. *The World of Christopher Columbus*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Rienits, Rex, and Thea Rienits. *The Voyages of Columbus*. N.p.: Crescent, 1990