



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND Division of Veterans Affairs

On December 7, 1941 the Japanese Attacked the U.S. Armed Forces at Pearl Harbor Field, Hawaii

In commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day, the Pearl Harbor Day Commemorative Committee (PHDCC) of the State of Rhode Island is sponsoring an essay contest for high school students. The main focus of the essay contest competition is, "What is the significance of Pearl Harbor?"

PEARL HARBOR ESSAY CONTEST RULES

The *Pearl Harbor Essay Contest* is meant to be a rewarding learning experience and challenge. Your chances of winning will dramatically increase if you follow these procedures and suggestions.

ELIGIBILITY: For High School Students only.

APPROACH: "What is the significance of Pearl Harbor?"

1. Be positive in your response, with a focus on your views of the consequences of that attack on America and the world today.
2. The content, sentence structure, and syntax must be yours alone.
3. To start you thinking on a focus for your essay, consider the following:
 - How the attack united America to organize and mobilize to fight on two fronts – against the Japanese and the Third Reich.
 - The impact of the attack on America's state of preparedness, how the mood of the country was changed to "Never Again" would we allow our military state of readiness to be so lacking, and how that attitude affected the way we reacted to the Soviet/Communist Chinese threat in the early years of the Cold War.
 - The parallels between the attack on Pearl Harbor and 9/11.
 - The result of the Pearl Harbor attack on Japanese war aims. Did the attack accomplish its objective?
 - How did America turn defeat into victory in the Pacific – what problems were overcome in the turnaround?
 - How America changed from "Isolationism" to "The World Power." Where are we today? How do we prepare for the future?

ENTRIES MUST:

1. Be typewritten in English
2. Be in 12 point font using Times New Roman and double spaced
3. Have a minimum of 500 words (title, footnotes, sources do not count)

4. Have quotations identified
5. Have a conclusion
6. Have at least 3 references listed at end, e.g., interviews [include biographical info], articles, web sites, etc. (The Pearl Harbor Day Commemorative Committee Brochure and Wikipedia are NOT acceptable sources).

Please note: Parents/teachers/counselors may advise on spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Improperly prepared essays will not be judged.

HOW WILL ESSAYS BE JUDGED?

There will be:

- Up to 45 points given for historical accuracy & the significance of the attack on Pearl Harbor on the future;
- Up to 35 points for clarity of ideas, human interest, positive message; and
- Up to 20 points for clarity of expression, punctuation, grammar, and spelling.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Essays will be disqualified for insufficient or unacceptable references.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY:

1. Make sure your name and school is on your essay.
2. MAIL ESSAYS TO:
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
600 New London Ave, Bldg. #57
Cranston, RI 02920
Attn: Pearl Harbor Essay Contest
3. Submit only one essay per student.
4. DEADLINE for submitting essays: must be received in the mail at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services by **November 17, 2010**.

PRIZES

Three top winners will be announced at the Pearl Harbor Day event on December 7, 2010. Prizes will be awarded for the three top winners. The prizes include:

- 1st Prize- 8GB iPod Touch
- 2nd Prize- 8GB iPod Nano
- 3rd Prize- Sony E-Reader - Pocket Edition

These prizes are courtesy of the Rhode Island United Veterans Council.